Hikaru no Go™

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story by Yumi Hotta

Art by Takeshi Obata

Supervised by Yukari Umezawa (5 Dan)

volume 4



Takeshi Obata

I hear that expensive Go stones are made from carved shells. You get one stone from one shell. Stones are a simple round shape. But there must be a tremendous amount of labor involved in finishing the stones.
—Takeshi Obata

It all began when Yumi Hotta played a pick-up game of Go with her father-in-law. As she was learning how to play, Ms. Hotta thought it might be fun to create a story around the traditional board game. More confident in her storytelling abilities than her drawing skills, she submitted the beginnings of **Hikaru no Go** to **Weekly Shonen Jump**'s Story King Award. The Story King Award is an award that picks the best story, manga, character design and youth (under 15) manga submissions every year in Japan. As fate would have it, Ms. Hotta's story (originally named, "***Kokonotsu no Hoshi***"), was a runner-up in the "Story" category of the Story King Award. Many years earlier, Takeshi Obata was a runner-up for the Tezuka Award, another Japanese manga contest sponsored by **Weekly Shonen Jump** and **Monthly Shonen Jump**. An editor assigned to Mr. Obata's artwork came upon Ms. Hotta's story and paired the two for a full-fledged manga about Go. The rest is modern Go history.

HIKARU NO GO VOL. 4
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

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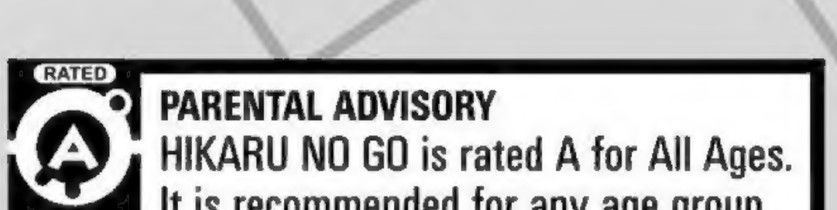
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Hikaru no

TM

4

DIVINE ILLUSIONS

STORY BY YUMI HOTTA
ART BY TAKESHI OBATA
Supervised by YUKARI UMEZAWA (5 Dan)

Hikaru Shindo

Fujiwara-no-Sai

Akira Toya

Character Introductions



Akari Fujisaki



Yuki Mitani



Kimihiro Tsutsui

Story Thus Far

Hikaru Shindo is a classic middle school cutup: a poor student and a compulsive prankster. One fateful day, up in his grandfather's attic, he and his friend Akari find an old Go board. Hikaru is the only one who can see the bloodstains on it. He also hears a ghostly voice and sees a misty figure before he faints dead away. When he awakens, Fujiwara-no-Sai, the spirit who haunts the board, has become a part of his consciousness…

Hikaru starts looking for a new member for Haze's Go Club in preparation for another upcoming tournament. Akari discovers that their classmate, Yuki Mitani, can play Go. Unfortunately, Yuki cheats and plays against adults for their money at Shu's Go Salon. Hikaru goes to the salon to make Yuki stop cheating. But Yuki ends up losing big to someone who out-cheats him! Hikaru borrows Sai's strength to get Yuki's money back. By and by, Yuki joins the Haze Go Club. Meanwhile, to face Hikaru in the next tournament, Akira joins Kaio's Go Club. Even if he has to deal with getting picked on by his club mates, Akira perseveres in order to play Hikaru again. When Akira finds out that Hikaru will play in the third position, he forfeits his spot as first position on the Kaio team and his membership in the Club if only he can play Hikaru just once in the third spot. And so the fateful tournament begins!

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Game 26
"You Play Him"

KLAK

DON'T YOU LAUGH UNTIL THE GAME'S COMPLETELY OVER!

KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
Hmm...
Oh...
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
TEN...
20...
40...
THANK YOU... GOOD GAME...
ALL RIGHT! I WIN BY 16 POINTS!

READ THIS WAY

HIKARU!

OH...

GOOD GAME!

Phew!

GOOD GAME!

SHF

SHF F

KLENCH

THE COME-BACK KID!

.....

NICE GAME.

I RESIGN...

I WAS TRYING TO CALM MYSELF DOWN.

YOU TOOK YOUR TIME ON EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR MOVES.

HAZE WON THEIR GAMES THREE TO NOTHING.

YUN SENSEI...

SKOOT

DID YOU SEE HIKARU SHINDO'S GAME?

HOW DID THE GAME GO?

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU PLAY HIM.

.....

AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT?

AKIRA...

?

HM? SURE...

YURI, CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU BEFORE LUNCH?

NO, THANKS.

HERE'S YOUR LUNCH, HIKARU!

NOT HUNGRY ...?

I'M NOT HUNGRY...

That was a great comeback!

Hikaru!

I'M A LOT STRONGER THAN I WAS BEFORE!

WASN'T IT?! AND THAT WASN'T A FLUKE! I WON WITH MY OWN STRENGTH!

Your next opponent shall be Akira Toya.

HMPH!

But you still can't beat Kimihiro.

I'M GOING TO PLAY HIM!

I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH AKIRA WANTS TO PLAY YOU!

I know, Hikaru. You don't have to rub it in.

I know, Hikaru.

You don't have to be mean!

OH, BOY...

YOU'RE NOT ON OUR TEAM, SAI!

IT'S JUST KIMIHIRO, YUKI AND ME.

I'M THE ONE THAT'S GOING TO PLAY!

KAORU, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK WITH ME ABOUT?

WHY COULDN'T AKIRA HAVE WAITED UNTIL I WAS A BIT STRONGER?

HUH?

IS IT ABOUT AKIRA TOYA GETTING PICKED ON BY THE OTHERS?

BUT IS IT TRUE THAT HE WAS BULLIED?

I KNOW AKIRA IS A BIT OUT OF PLACE IN THE CLUB...

THREE KIDS GANGED UP ON AKIRA AND MADE HIM PLAY WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE GAME BOARDS. THEY EITHER WANTED TO HUMILIATE HIM OR MAKE HIM QUIT THE CLUB.

YES...

I HAPPENED TO WITNESS IT AND MANAGED TO PUT A STOP TO IT.

I DON'T THINK AKIRA WOULD QUIT THE GO CLUB.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF HUMILIATION THEY COULD HAVE PUT HIM THROUGH...

.....

AND ALL JUST FOR HIKARU SHINDO.

INDEED...

NEVER-THELESS...

AKIRA'S AWARE OF HOW SELFISH HE'S BEING— THIS MUST BE HARD ON HIM.

IN EX-CHANGE FOR GETTING HIS WAY, TODAY'S AKIRA'S LAST DAY AS A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB.

HE EVEN WENT AGAINST YUN SENSEI'S WISHES SO HE COULD FACE SHINDO IN THE THIRD POSITION.

TUP

THE LOOK OF DETERMINATION ON AKIRA'S FACE AS HE ARGUED WITH YUN SENSEI...

"IT'S JUST THIS ONE TOURNAMENT FOR ME!"

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED.

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT MOST WANTED TO PLAY AGAINST HIM.

BUT I GUESS THINGS WILL CALM DOWN AFTER AKIRA LEAVES THE CLUB.

.....

AKIRA...


But Akira has a likeable person-ality...
I GUESS I CAN SEE WHY. THAT GUY DOESN'T THINK ABOUT ANYONE BUT HIMSELF.
GETTING PICKED ON, HUH?
The reason he got picked on is probably because the others are jealous that he's so popular with girls!
Hikaru! The only reason he joined the club is because you said you wouldn't play him!
WHO CARES? HE SHOULD JUST GO AHEAD AND QUIT THE DARN CLUB!

YOU'RE ALL THAT HE CAN THINK ABOUT, SAI.

FSHH

FSHH



WHO WOULD GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE?

Akira had to fight to be placed in the third spot. By all rights he should be the first.

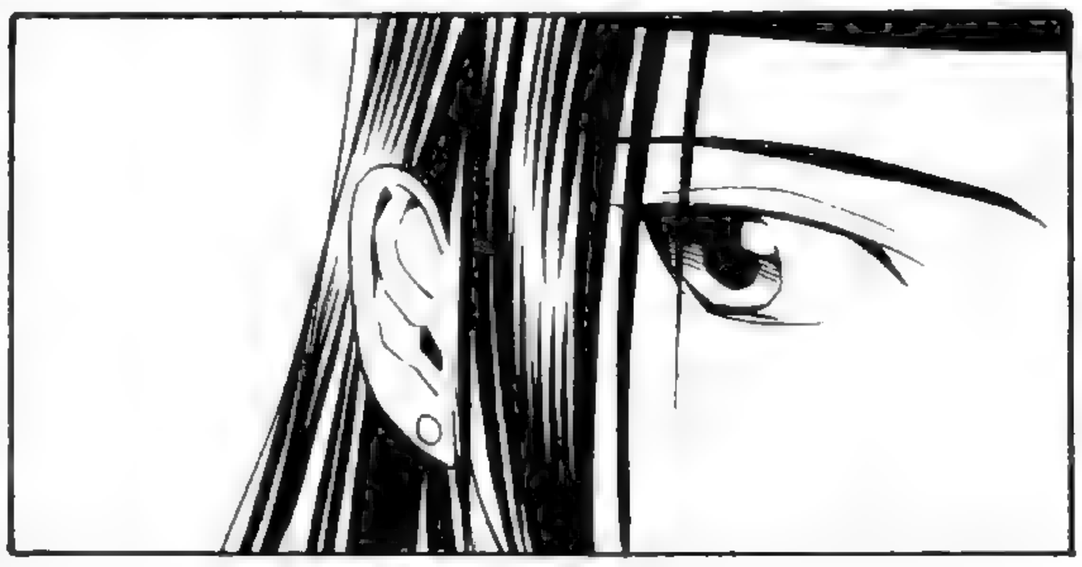




SAI...

YOU PLAY HIM...





.....

YOU PLAY HIM, SAI.

You were going on and on about playing him yourself...

Are you sure?

WON'T YOU HAVE EVEN JUST A BIT OF YOUR LUNCH?

THE SECOND ROUND IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...

HERE YOU ARE, HIKARU.

TUP TUP

HOW ARE KIMIHIRO AND YUKI DOING?

I'LL EAT AFTER THE TOURNA-MENT'S ALL OVER.

YUKI'S GETTING REALLY SERIOUS.

HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO GIVE HIS ALL TO BEAT KAIO'S FIRST.

PLAYING A GAME?

AGAINST EACH OTHER?

THEY'RE PLAYING A GAME.

.....

AND KIMIHIRO, HE SAYS THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GOING TO LOSE TO YUKI.

THAT'S OUR FIRST AND SECOND!

.....

YOU DO YOUR BEST AS OUR THIRD, HIKARU!

LIKE I WAS SAYING, *YOU* PLAY HIM, SAI.

Hikaru!

LET'S HEAD BACK NOW.

THAT GUY REALLY MEANS BUSINESS...

READ THIS WAY

SHEE

AND IF YOU KEEP THINKING ABOUT ME, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE TO HIM.

4TH NORTHERN DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL GO TOURNAMENT HALL

I must face him with my full attention.

Yes...

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO BEAT KAIO ON AN EMPTY STOMACH?

YOU DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING FOR LUNCH?

KIMIHIRO, YUKI...

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

CLATTER

CLATTER

STOP YOUR GAMES.

THE SECOND ROUND IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

CLEAR EVERYTHING AWAY.

KAIO VERSUS HAZE...

SKOOT

AYU AGAINST TAI...

HAMACHI VERSUS—

SKOOT

HIKARU...

SKOOT

.....

SKOOT

IT'S OKAY IF WE LOSE. LET'S JUST GIVE IT ALL WE HAVE. YUKI, TOO...

WE'VE BEEN GOING AFTER KAIO, AND NOW WE'VE COME THIS FAR.

WHO KNOWS... MAYBE I'LL WIN BY A FLUKE AGAIN...

RIGHT...

SKOOT

BEGIN YOUR GAMES...

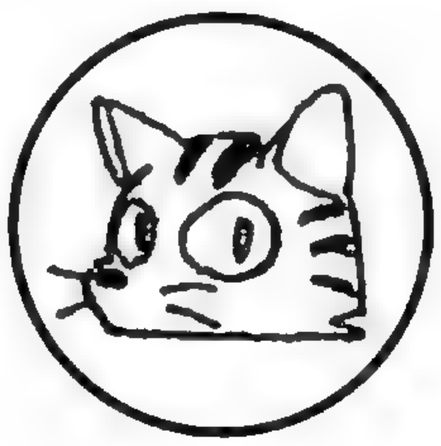
A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

HAZE

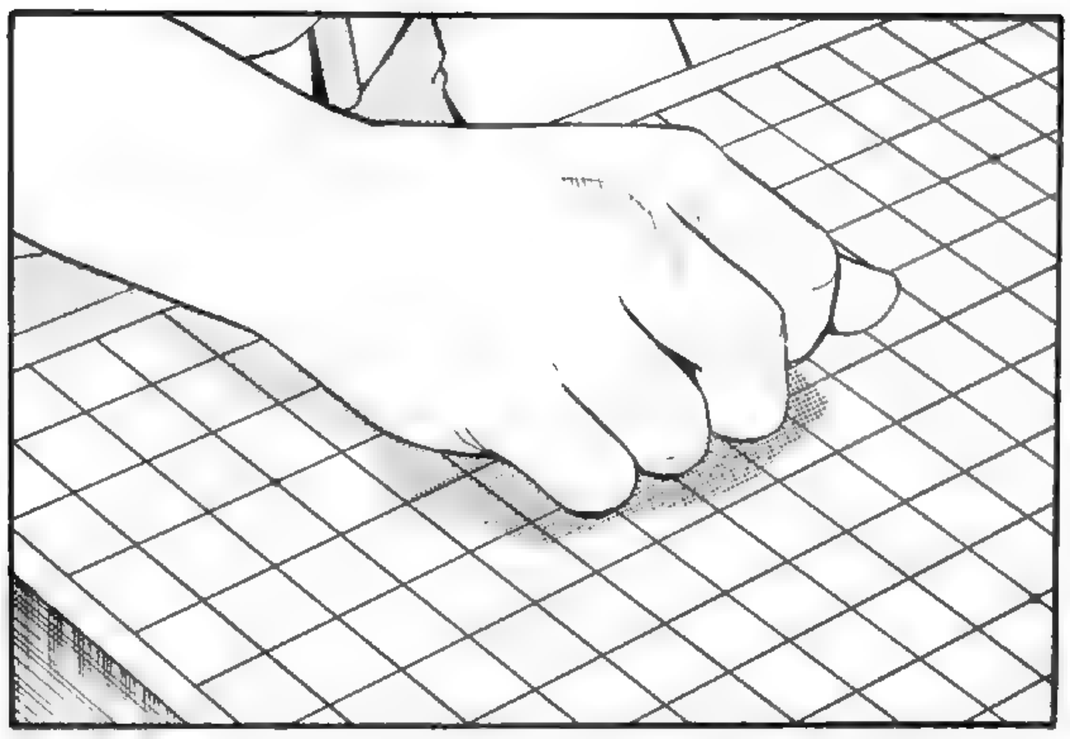


HAZE MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO BE CALLED TARA MIDDLE SCHOOL. BUT THEN I HEARD THAT A TARA MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTUALLY EXISTS SO WE CHANGED IT TO HAZE. I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY SCHOOLS OUT THERE CALLED AYU, TAI OR HAMACHI? AND MAYBE I SHOULD FIND OUT IF THERE ARE ANY SCHOOLS NAMED IWANA OR KAWAHAGI...

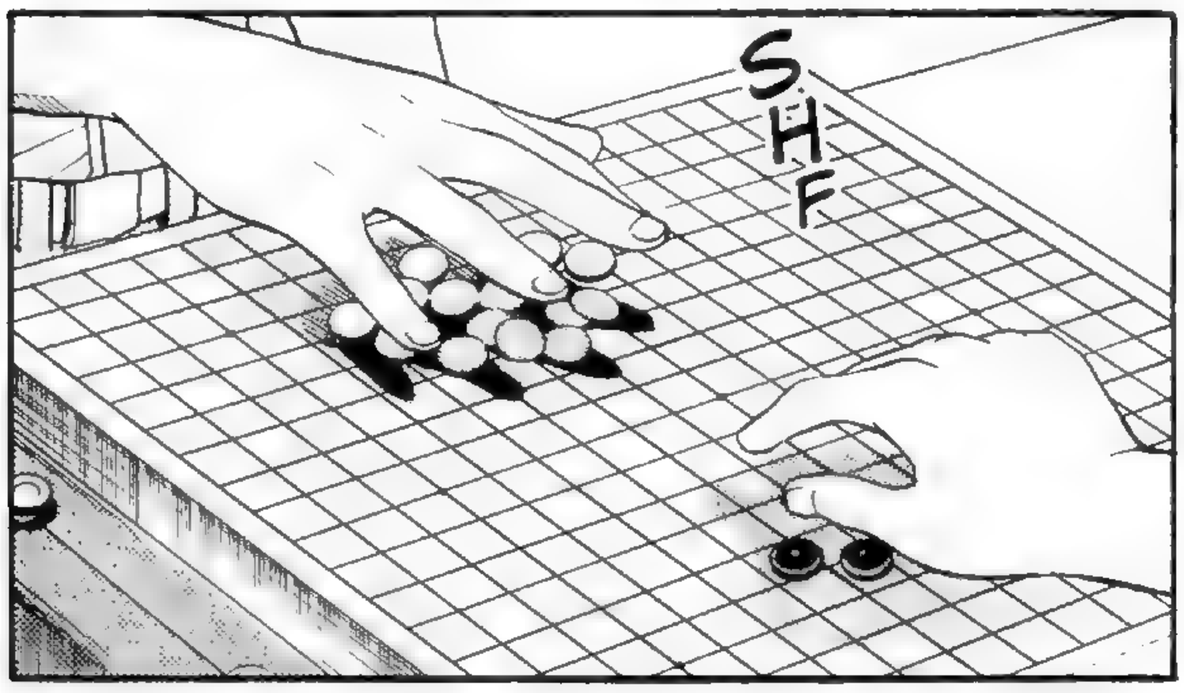
[NOTE: ALL THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE NAMED AFTER DIFFERENT TYPES OF FISH: HAZE=GOBY, TARA=COD, AYU=SWEET SMELT, TAI=SEA BREAM, HAMACHI=YELLOW TAIL, IWANA=CHAR, KAWAHAGI=FILEFISH.]



Game 27
"Third Face-off"




LET'S CHOOSE FOR COLOR...
SCHF


SHF


KCHK


YUKI'S BLACK...
SO YOU'RE BLACK TOO, HIKARU.
TWO, FOUR, SIX... 14.


ONEGAI-SHIMASU.
ONEGAI-SHIMASU.

READ THIS WAY

ONEGAI-SHIMASU.

ONEGAI-SHIMASU.

ONEGAI-SHIMASU.

AT LAST I GET TO FACE YOU...

AT LAST...

I'M SURPRISED HE'S SO OPTIMISTIC.

EVEN THOUGH LAST TIME HE REALLY GOT WHUPPED BY SAI, HE'S NOT AT ALL DISCOURAGED.

CLATTER

KTP

!

READ THIS WAY

SHIVER

SHIVER

GULP

SAI...

KCHK

ONEGAI-
SHIMASU...

Come now,
Hikaru...

The upper right 3-4 point!

KLAK

SHF

KCHK

KLAK

I am sure he has already played this game against me in his head many times over.

That is probably the case.

SO QUICK! AS IF HE ALREADY KNEW WHERE HE WAS GOING TO PLAY.

One-point corner enclosure at 4-15

.....

KCHK

KCHK

KLAK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KLAK

KCHK

KCHK

KLAK

3-5 point in the lower left.

HE'S GOT THAT SAME LOOK IN HIS EYES.

AKIRA...

I GOT DRAWN IN BY THE SERIOUS LOOK IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU WERE TAKING ON SAI. AND NOW I'VE COME THIS FAR...

OVER-COMING YOU IS MY DISTANT GOAL...

READ THIS WAY

.....?

.....

SAI?

SHF

!

YOU'RE TAKING SO LONG... WHY AT THIS POINT IN THE GAME?

IF IT WERE ME, I'D PLAY AT 8-11 FOR SURE.

.....

.....

.....

.....

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE AGAINST AKIRA'S MOVES?

WHAT'RE YOU THINKING, SAI?

SHFF

WHY ISN'T 8-11 ANY GOOD?! 8-11!

DARN! I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.

YOU DON'T NEED TO GET ANY BETTER THAN YOU ALREADY ARE...

HMPH!

.....

HAVE I MATURED — IF EVEN JUST A LITTLE?

KLUNK

PLACING STONES DOWN...

HUH?

YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER AT PLACING THE STONES DOWN ON THE BOARD.

YOU'VE CHANGED TOO...

I PLAY AGAINST KIMIHIRO EVERY DAY — AND AGAINST YUKI TOO. I'VE GOTTEN A LOT STRONGER.

OF COURSE I'M BETTER...

HOW MUCH CLOSER HAVE I GOTTEN TO CATCHING UP TO YOU?

AKIRA, I WONDER...

.....

KCHK

SHF

KCHK

KLAK

KLAK

KCHK

YOU MUST REALIZE BY NOW...

GLARE

I'M NOT JUST ANY FIRST YEAR STUDENT.

KLAK

TAKING YOUR TIME?

.....

hmm...

KRAK

KRAK

I'M NOT YOUR AVERAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT.

HMPH! YOU IDIOT. YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED ME.

SURE, YOU'RE A BETTER PLAYER THAN ME...

...THEN I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING.

BUT IF I MAKE YOU PLAY AT MY PACE BY ATTACKING STRONG AND MAKING UNEXPECTED MOVES...

SO WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ...?

READ THIS WAY

FWP

SHFF

KCHK

SHF

KLAK

KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
IT'S YOUR MOVE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
KCHK
.....
...SO THAT YOU CAN PLAY A GAME WORTHY OF THE FIRST POSITION.
.....
TAKE AS MUCH TIME TO THINK AS YOU NEED...

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU ATTACKED MORE SUBTLY.

YOUR ATTACKS ARE TOO DIRECT.

.....

JUST YOU WATCH ...

I SEE... YOU STILL UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

YOU OFFERING ADVICE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME?

SHF

THIS IS GOING TO BE A GAME WORTHY OF THE FIRST POSI-TION!

I WANT TO PLAY!

...I AM CHASING AFTER YOU.

AKIRA, JUST AS YOU ARE CHASING AFTER SAI...

4-13...

AND I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU SOMEDAY.

AND AFTER THAT YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY 8-11, AREN'T YOU?

Hikaru? 4-13...

SHIT

I HAVE TO FIND OUT!

I'M SORRY, SAI!

IT'S ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE *HIKARU NO GO* STARTED BEING SERIALIZED.

AND IN THIS TIME I HAVEN'T SEEN THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT ONCE.

AND I'VE NEVER SEEN OBATA SENSEI'S FINISHED ARTWORK.

HIKARU NO GO STORYBOARDS

8

YUMI HOTTA



OH.... BUT THERE'S LOTS OF FUN THINGS THAT HAPPEN TOO.



MAYBE IT CAN'T BE HELPED BECAUSE I LIVE FAR AWAY FROM THE CITY. BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE IT ONCE BEFORE THIS SERIES ENDS.

HOW MUCH PANIC WAS THERE? THERE WAS A LOT!

STORY BY
TAKESHI OBATA

ART BY
YUMI HOTTA

ONE TIME THERE WAS PANIC WITH THE COLOR PAGES FROM GAME 18. THERE WAS A CREDITING ERROR!

READ THIS "HIKARU NO GO STORYBOARDS" SECTION VERY QUIETLY AND CALMLY.

SO, THAT BEING SAID, EVERYONE...

THIS IS A BONUS PAGE. WE MUSTN'T MAKE IT SO EXCITING THAT IT WILL GET IN THE WAY OF THE MAIN PART OF THIS MANGA.

Game 28
"Divine Vision"

I HAVE TO FIND OUT!

KLAK

.....

8-11...?!

I'M GOING TO PLAY...

KCHK

...

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND HIM!

KLAK

I WANT TO KNOW...

I'M SORRY, SAI, BUT I CAN'T TELL UNLESS I PLAY HIM MYSELF.

Hikaru!

KLAK

THAT'S A RIDICULOUS MOVE... OR DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING PLANNED?

KLAK

WHAT'S THIS...? IT SHOCKED ME FOR A SECOND...

KLAK

.....

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

Intri-
guing!

.....

KCHK

KLAK

Nevertheless, Hikaru's will is clearly expressed in each of his moves.

18-11 is indeed an interesting move!

It is unfortunate that Hikaru does not currently have the skill to follow up that idea.

Hikaru...

.....

But I really did want to play...

.....

DARN IT!

It's all your fault, Hikaru!

From now on...

...I shall stand back and watch you grow...

STOP...

READ THIS WAY

SKOOT

STOP MESSING AROUND!!

AKIRA!

Yes, he is not messing around!

I'M NOT MESSING AROUND!

You don't realize that with every footstep, Hikaru is heading straight towards you.

Akira, you are just chasing after my shadow and cannot properly see Hikaru's Go.

YOU MUST PLAY TO THE END OF THE GAME.

AKIRA...

...YOU'D FIND OUT ONCE YOU PLAYED HIM.

I TOLD YOU...

OR PERHAPS I SHOULD RESIGN THE GAME?

READ THIS WAY

SKOOT

.....

SHIFT

KCHAK

DARN IT!

.....

KLAK

KLAK

.....

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK

HE'S OVER-ESTIMATING HIKARU. I KNOW HOW STRONG HIKARU IS.

IS HE STUPID? WHAT'S HE GETTING SO EXCITED OVER HIKARU FOR?

KLAK

KIMIHIRO ISN'T DOING SO GREAT EITHER.

.....

IT'S UP TO ME.

KLAK

FP

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO ANYTHING TO RETALI-ATE.

KLATTA

KLATTA

KLATTA

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KLATTA

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

IS HE JUST BEING STUBBORN?

KLATTA

WHAT?! WHY ALL THIS FOR ONE POINT?

KLATTA

KLAK

KLATTA

BUT I DON'T THINK THIS POINT MEANS ALL THAT MUCH...

FINE! I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE IT UP, EITHER...

WHY'S HE BEING SO STUBBORN ABOUT THIS?

READ THIS WAY

GASP!

KLAK

KLAFTA

FINE! YOU CAN HAVE IT!

KLAK

JUST FOR ONE POINT?

YOU CONCEDED THAT POINT...

GASP!

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONG PLAYING A TYPE OF POWER GO THAT IS SELF-TAUGHT.

SO YOU SHOULDN'T CONCEDE.

FROM THIS POINT ON, YOU'LL BEGIN TO BREAK DOWN.

YOU MAY THINK THAT THIS POINT DOESN'T MEAN ALL THAT MUCH, BUT A PLAYER LIKE YOU CAN'T LOSE THE INITIATIVE.

ARE YOU TRYING TO... TO GET ME WORKED UP?!

HMPH!

HURRY UP AND PLAY!

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK

NNGH... MMH...
KCHK
KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
HMM...
.....
KCHK
KLAK

必勝
KLAK
KLAK

Hikaru...

.....

.....

I RESIGN...

I...

THANKS FOR THE GAME.

SKOOT

AKIRA!

THANKS FOR THE GAME...

SKOOT

KLAT

SHUF SHUF KLATTA

WHEN I...

...OF THE FORMER YOU...

WHEN I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE...

I WENT AS FAR AS TO THINK THAT I'D SEEN THE "DIVINE MOVE."

READ THIS WAY

KLAK

I RESIGN.

KCHK

.....

KLAK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KCHK

KLAK

KLAK

KCHK

IT'S NOT OVER YET...

IT'S...

FRANKLY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD PLAY THIS WELL. IT WAS FUN.

YOU INTEND TO PLAY THROUGH TO THE END?

IS THAT RIGHT?

I RESIGN...

.....

THANKS FOR THE GAME.

.....

SHFF

SHFF

SHFF

SHFF

KLAT

MMH...

SHFF

SNFF
SNFF...

AH...

SHFF

SNFF

CHKK

CHKK

SNFF...

SOB...


SKOOT
KAIO VERSUS HAZE...
KAIO WINS THREE GAMES TO ZERO.

THE AKIRA TOYA THAT WAS DRAWN THERE WAS A BIT DARK AND WILD. (NOT THE CURRENT AKIRA.) HE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE IMAGE I HAD OF HIM IN MY STORY-BOARDS BUT HE WAS VERY COOL.

I RECEIVED OBATA SENSEI'S DRAWINGS OF THE MAIN CHAR-ACTERS TWO MONTHS BEFORE SERIALIZATION STARTED.

HIKARU NO GO STORYBOARDS

9

YUMI HOTTA





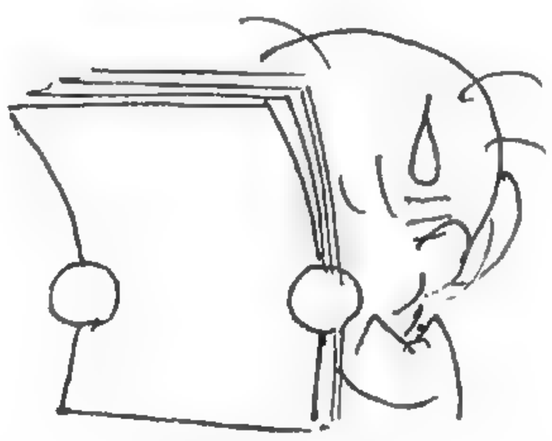


I IMMEDIATELY STARTED REWRITING A NUMBER OF STORY-BOARD PAGES SO THAT IT WOULD MATCH THAT FACE...

THE WAY HE TALKED CHANGED AS WELL AS THE WAY HE MOVED. THE MANGA BECAME FUN IN A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAY!

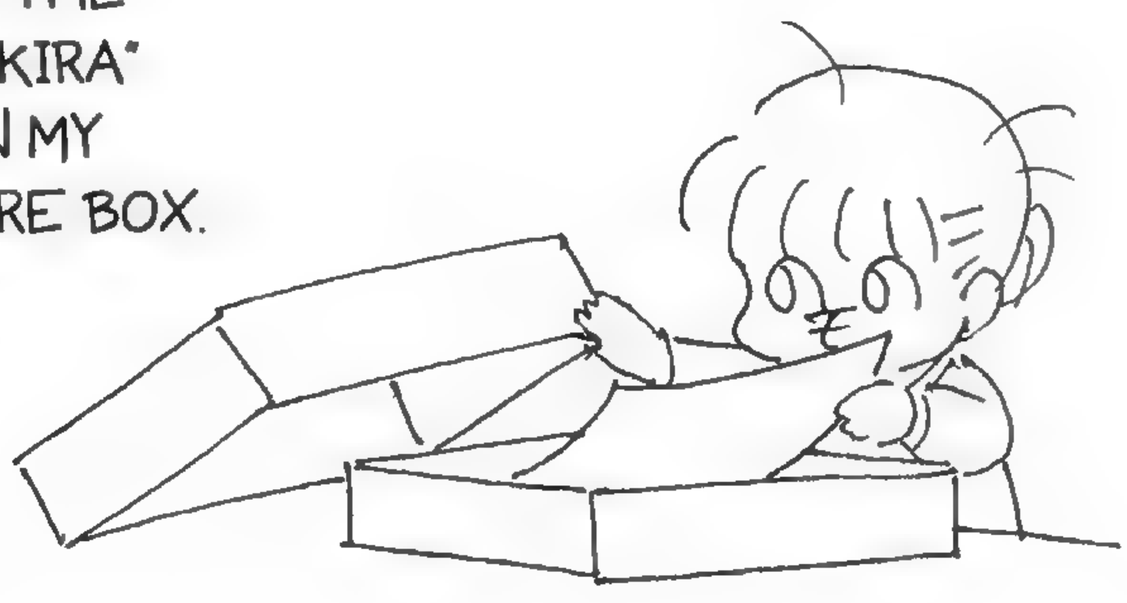
INSTEAD YUKI APPEARED WITH MORE OF A MISCHIEVOUS VISUAL IMAGE.

BUT IT STILL WASN'T USED.



EVENTUALLY, OBATA SENSEI DID ANOTHER DRAWING BUT I WANTED TO USE THE "WILD" AKIRA AT SOME POINT. ACTUALLY, I USED HIM TO CREATE YUKI MITANI IN MY STORYBOARDS.

I'LL PUT THE "WILD AKIRA" AWAY IN MY TREASURE BOX.



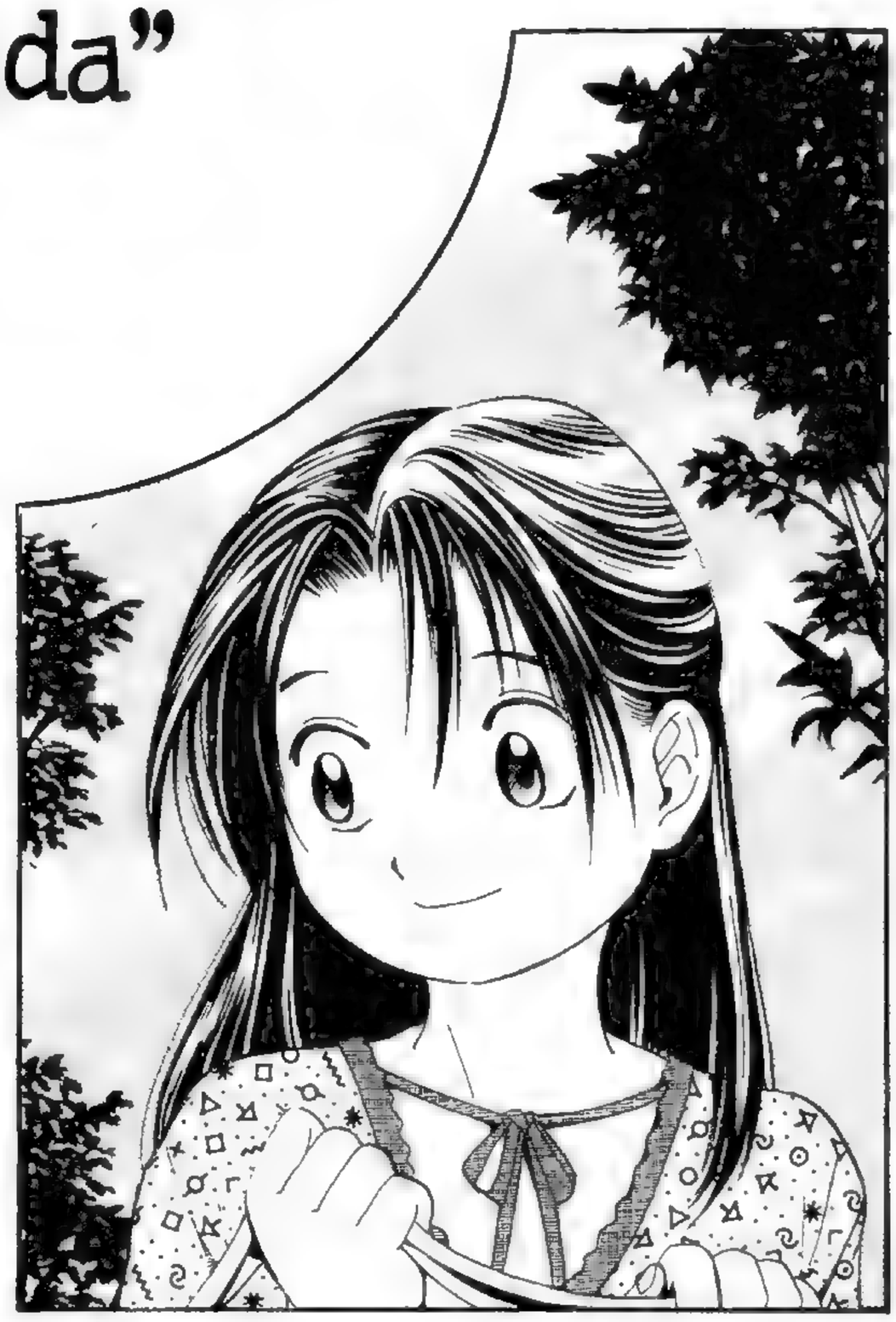
I GUESS ILLUSIONS SHOULD REMAIN ILLUSIONS.





Game 29
"Zelda"





ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT'S WRONG, HARUMI?

CRASH

GASP!

I'M OKAY...

YES... MY HAND SLIPPED AND I BROKE THE CUP IS ALL...

KLATTA KLATTA

KLNK

IS AKIRA SENSEI GOING TO TAKE THE PRO TEST?

IS IT TRUE, HARUMI?

I JUST HEARD FROM MUROI THIS MORNING!

FWOOSH

HEY, EVERY-BODY!

THAT'S RIGHT...

BUT IT'S SO SUDDEN. I COMPLETELY THOUGHT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF TAKING THE TEST THIS YEAR!

THIS IS REALLY BIG NEWS! THE WORLD OF GO IS GOING TO GET PRETTY EXCITING NEXT YEAR!

THEN IT IS TRUE! WOW!

.....

I EVEN ASKED HIM ABOUT THE GO CLUB AT HIS SCHOOL...

WHO KNOWS... AKIRA DOESN'T TALK ABOUT IT.

I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT MADE AKIRA SENSEI CHANGE HIS MIND.

THIS IS GREAT. I'M SURE TOYA MEIJIN IS VERY PLEASED.

HMM...

SAID IT WAS JUST A DIVER-SION.

HE SAID THAT HE'D HAD ENOUGH OF IT.

I'M JUST PLAIN HAPPY TO HEAR THE NEWS.

IS THAT SO?

BUT WHY?!

THAT MAY NOT BE SO...

AND EVEN YOU, HARUMI — WHY THE LONG LOOK?

ANYONE WOULD HAVE THEIR DOUBTS. AFTER ALL, AKIRA DECIDED SO SUDDENLY.

IT'S EVERYONE AROUND HIM THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT. LIKE *YOU*, MR. HIROSE.

I KNOW *AKIRA'S* NOT GOING TO CHANGE.

AKIRA SENSEI'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE EVEN IF HE DOES GO PRO.

HE WON'T BE JUST PLAIN AKIRA TO ME ANYMORE...

YOU'LL ALL FORCE ME TO CALL HIM "AKIRA SENSEI."

WE'LL MAKE IT REAL BIG! WE'LL INCLUDE EVERYONE FROM THIS GO SALON, FROM TOYA MEIJIN'S FAN CLUB, AND ALSO ALL THE PLAYERS THAT ARE UNDER HIM.

WHEN AKIRA SENSEI MAKES IT AS A PRO, WE SHOULD THROW HIM A PARTY TO CELEBRATE.

AKIRA DOESN'T REALLY CARE FOR SUCH THINGS...

TALKING ABOUT OUR YOUNG SENSEI?

.....

THERE'S STILL A LOT OF TIME, BUT...

THE PRO TEST STARTS AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, BUT WE WON'T KNOW THE RESULTS UNTIL FALL.

FWAP

AND HE SHOULD SAY A WORD OR TWO IN FRONT OF EVERY-BODY...

HE'S SUPPOSED TO PARTI-CIPATE IN THESE KIND OF THINGS.

HARUMI, YOU REALLY SHOULD START CALLING HIM AKIRA *SENSEI*.

HOW ABOUT I GIVE A SPEECH IN AKIRA'S PLACE?!

KLIK

CAN YOU KEEP IT DOWN? THE NCC CUP GO TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT TO START.

BAM

HMPH! I DON'T NEED YOU MEDDLING IN MY BUSINESS.

HE'S NOT OFFICIALLY A PRO YET!

HARUMI, HOW ABOUT I INTRO-DUCE YOU TO A REALLY NICE GUY?

NCC
GO TOURNAME
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
HIKARU!
HIKARU!
THIS OLD GUY WAS GIVING ME SOME CANDY.
CANDY?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING GETTING OUT OF LINE?

I GUESS THESE ARE THE GUYS THAT ARE PLAYING TODAY...

SO...

ROUND 1 GAME 5

Kikuo Fujisawa

HA HA HA...

HE SAID IT WAS PRETTY UNUSUAL FOR KIDS TO COME WATCH A PRO-FESSIONAL GO MATCH.

BUT YOU KNOW, I ***WAS*** SURPRISED THAT YOU CAME WITH ME TODAY.

THAT'S RIGHT.

IF YOU SUB-SCRIBE TO "GO WEEKLY" FOR A YEAR, YOU ALSO GET...

I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT IT WOULD BE TOO BORING TO WATCH A PRO MATCH.

YOU CAN PLAY GO VIA THE INTERNET...

WELL, I FIGURED I SHOULD SEE AT LEAST ONE GAME...

Hikaru!

IT'S MORE FUN TO ACTUALLY PLAY THE GAME.

JUST WATCHING *IS* GOING TO BE BORING.

YEAH, YEAH... I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M RUINING MY SUNDAY FOR YOUR SAKE.

Truly regretful!

It's because you ***interrupted*** the game between Akira and I!

THEY PROBABLY ENJOY IT.

REALLY? DOESN'T IT BOTHER THE PLAYERS TO HAVE ALL THAT GOING ON NEXT TO THEM WHILE THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME?

SOME PROS ARE GOING TO USE A LARGE BOARD TO ANALYZE EACH MOVE.

BUT, KIMIHIRO, IS IT GOING TO BE ANY FUN TO WATCH THE GAME FROM THIS FAR AWAY?

Hikaru, look over there!

14TH NCC CUP GO TOURNAMENT

WELCOME TO GAME 5 IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 14TH NCC CUP GO TOURNAMENT!

HELLO TO EVERYONE HERE AND AT HOME WATCHING ON TV.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

I'M GLAD SAI SOUNDS LIKE HE'S ENJOYING HIMSELF.

BA-BUMP BA-BUMP

Wow! Look at that big Go board!

NOW, THE GAME IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

ANALYSIS OF THE GAME WILL BE DONE ON THE BIG BOARD BY MURASE 9-DAN. YOSHINAGA 2-DAN WILL BE THE GAME RECORDER. THE TIME KEEPER WILL BE...

I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD ABOUT WHAT I DID TO SAI.

I ENDED UP PLAYING HIS GAME AGAINST AKIRA.

AKIRA...

WHAT I DID WAS HORRIBLE TO HIM AS WELL...

AKIRA WANTED TO PLAY AGAINST SAI SO MUCH...

I WANT TO LET SAI PLAY ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT HE'S SO STRONG, I'LL END UP BECOMING THE KING OF THE FLUKE WINS.

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.

.....

What a dork.

Uh... Hikaru...

I'm mystery man X!!

klak

MAYBE I CAN PLAY IN DISGUISE.

I HAVEN'T BEEN WATCH-ING THE GAME AT ALL...

OOPS!

KIMIHIRO, ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP WATCHING THIS?

加藤 紀基

NO! THAT'S NO GOOD!

Hikaru!

I'M GOING TO HANG OUT IN THE LOBBY FOR A BIT...

KEEP WATCHING? BUT THE GAME IS JUST —

But, Hikaru!

WAAAH!

THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW LONG I CAN SIT STILL WITH-OUT DOING ANYTHING...

Oh...

HEY! LOOK, SAI, THEY'RE SELLING SOME GO BOOKS OVER THERE.

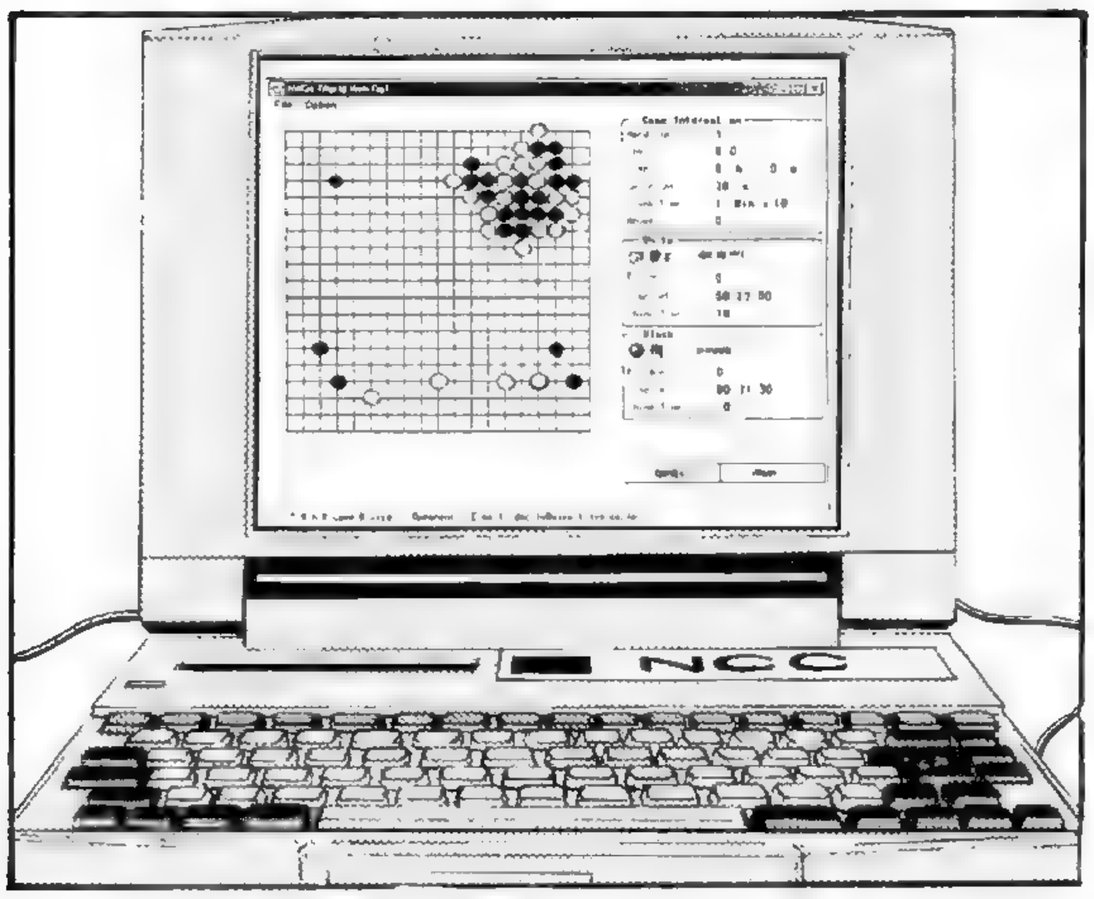
I was really looking forward to this!!

OH, BOY...

YOU WANNA TRY?

AND OVER THERE, YOU CAN PLAY GO ON A COM-PUTER!





OH, BOY... I DID IT AGAIN...

Sob sob...







THE INTER-NET?

SO YOU'RE NOT INTER-ESTED IN THE INTERNET?

HE'S PLAYING BLACK AND HIS OPPONENT IS WHITE. SEE? WHITE JUST MADE A MOVE...

THAT'S RIGHT. RIGHT NOW THIS BOY IS PLAYING A GAME ON THE INTERNET.

...YOUR STONES ARE GOING TO GET CAPTURED.

Time

Moves

White

80*

HEY, IF YOU PLAY THERE...

NOW THIS KID WILL PLAY BLACK...

PLIP

SEE...?

Prisoners

Left

White

BAM

.....

THIS ISN'T A VIDEO GAME! YOUR OPPONENT IS A REAL PERSON!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SORRY FOR QUITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME —

I'D BETTER APOLOGIZE RIGHT AWAY.

Umm...

Chat Window

Fixed Chat

zelda> Darnit! Don't quit just because a bunch of your stones got captured! You're a jerk!!

GASP!

WOW! THIS IS COOL!

NCC

HE WROTE BEFORE I COULD APOLO-GIZE...

zelda> Da
a bunch o
You're a

IT'S THE NAME YOU USE ONLINE. SEE? THIS IS THE USER NAME RIGHT HERE.

USER NAME?

THIS PERSON MUST BE A KID...

REALLY? A KID?

I THINK SO, JUDGING FROM HIS USER NAME AND THE WAY HE WRITES.

WELL, THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GUESSING.

A KID, HUH?

ZELDA?

JPN
JPN
CHN
CAN
USA
GER

THE "JPN" STANDS FOR JAPAN, "CHN" FOR CHINA AND "CAN" FOR CANADA. YOU CAN SEE THAT THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY HERE TOO.

OF COURSE, KIDS GO ONLINE, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. LOOK... ALL THESE PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ARE HERE TOO, SEE...?

YOU SEE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO REVEAL WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE ON THE INTERNET... OR HOW OLD YOU ARE, OR EVEN YOUR REAL NAME. SO YOU NEVER KNOW FOR SURE.

NCC

THE WHOLE PROCESS IS VERY SIMPLE AND EASY TO OPERATE.

NCC

PEOPLE ON THIS LIST PLAY GAMES WITH EACH OTHER. THEY MAKE REQUESTS OF EACH OTHER TO PLAY AND CAN ACCEPT OR DECLINE.

READ THIS WAY

"MAYBE I CAN PLAY IN DISGUISE."

YOU DON'T HAVE TO REVEAL WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, HOW OLD YOU ARE, OR EVEN YOUR REAL NAME...

?

THIS IS IT!

NCC

A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

SAI

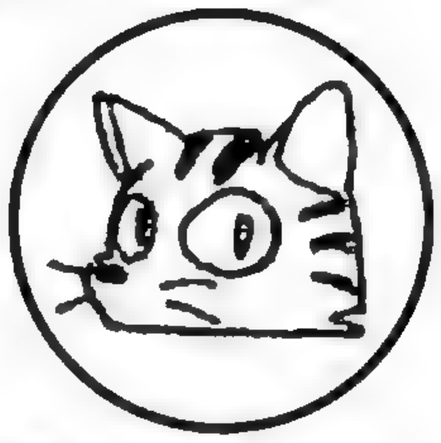


SAI IS YAWNING!

DOES HE GO TO SLEEP AT NIGHT?!

AND DOES HE WAKE UP WHEN HIKARU WAKES UP AND YAWN WHEN HIKARU YAWNS?

IT SEEMS LIKE SO MUCH FUN.



Game 30 "sai"

MIIM

SO I SHOULD TRY TO TAKE THESE WHITE STONES?

YUP.

MIIM

Miim: sound of cicadas

KLNK

UH-HUH.

UMM...

MAYBE I SHOULD GO HERE...

MIIM

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF WHITE ESCAPES HERE?

MIIM

KLAK

SORRY I'M NOT THAT GOOD...

READ THIS WAY

NO, THANKS...

HEY, WANNA LEARN HOW TO CHEAT TOO?

KLNK

HMM... I'LL GO HERE?

YEAH...

RATTLE

HEY...

THEN I SHOULD PLAY HERE, RIGHT?

NOW, I'LL GO HERE...

SCRATCH SCRATCH

SAYS HE'S GOING ON THE INTERNET.

KLAK

IS IT JUST THE TWO OF YOU? WHERE'S HIKARU?

KIMIHIRO, WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ALREADY?"

ALREADY?

THE INTERNET?

SKOOT

YESTERDAY, HIKARU AND I WENT TO SEE A PRO-FESSIONAL GO GAME.

REALLY?

HIKARU GOT TIRED OF SITTING STILL FOR SO LONG AND LEFT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME.

...BUT THERE WAS AN ONLINE GO DEMON-STRATION IN THE LOBBY...

I DON'T KNOW WHY HE WAS SO INTER-ESTED...

THE INTER-NET...

BUT WHERE DID HE GO AFTER HE LEFT?

HE WAS THERE THE WHOLE TIME UNTIL I CAME OUT AFTER THE PRO GAME ENDED.

HIKARU WAS LISTENING TO THE GUY EXPLAIN ABOUT GO ON THE INTERNET.

HE RAN OUT AS SOON AS I TOLD HIM WHERE IT WAS.

YOUR SISTER?

YUKI'S SISTER HAS A PART-TIME JOB AT A PLACE WHERE HE CAN HAVE ACCESS.

BUT WHERE DID HE GO TO USE THE INTERNET?

SHFF-SHFF

NO, THAT'S OKAY.

KIMIHIRO, HERE... YOU CAN TAKE MY PLACE.

I JUST LEARNED ABOUT THE LADDER.

KLK

AKARI, HOW'S YOUR GO GAME DOING?

FROM THE WAY HE WAS JUST ACTING, HIKARU'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE OBSESSED WITH THE INTER-NET.

I THINK...

MIIM

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS SOON.

I'M GOING TO BE A BIT BUSY BE-CAUSE I HAVE TO TAKE SOME SUM-MER STUDY CLASSES.

BY THE WAY, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SUMMER BREAK.

I THINK I'LL GO BACK TO THE GO SALON...

AFTER ALL, I WANT TO PLAY IN TOURNA-MENTS TOO.

AND THEN NEXT SEMESTER, I'LL FIND TWO OTHER GIRLS TO JOIN THE GO CLUB...

MAYBE I'LL START TAKING GO CLASSES AT THE SAME PLACE HIKARU USED TO GO.

I WANT TO PLAY IN A TEAM TOURNAMENT!

THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED WHEN I WATCHED YOU GUYS PLAY! TEAM TOURNAMENTS SEEM LIKE SO MUCH FUN!

BUT, AKARI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY IN TEAM TOURNAMENTS. YOU CAN COMPETE IN INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS.

KLAK

.....

BUT IT *WAS* FUN.

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE GOT BEAT BY KAIO...

TEAM TOURNAMENTS ARE ALL RIGHT.

YEAH...

I CAN HELP YOU WITH THE COMPUTER, BUT I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT GO.

THE INTERNET EXPERIENCE

USE IMACS TO DO EMAIL A

AND I CAN ACCESS IT FROM HERE?

THE WORLD IGO NET?

AROUND THE WORLD... BUT DO YOU EVEN KNOW ANY ENGLISH?

I CAN PLAY GO WITH ANYBODY AROUND THE WORLD.

THAT'S OKAY. I ALREADY LEARNED HOW TO PLAY A GAME ON THE INTER-NET.

I DON'T NEED TO KNOW ENGLISH. I JUST WANT TO PLAY GO.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S JUST LIKE YESTER-DAY.

Hikaru, weren't you looking at a box like this yester-day?

READ THIS WAY

But, Hikaru, won't you tell me what it is you are doing?

Even I understand that as time moves forward, things change in the world. So I won't ask what this is or how it works.

Huh?!

What?!

What?!

I THOUGHT I MIGHT LET YOU PLAY AS MUCH GO AS YOU WANT. JUST HOLD ON A MINUTE...

AND WHEN YUKI WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HE PLAYED AGAINST A TEACHER OF HIS WHO KNEW HOW TO PLAY GO.

PLIP

PLIP

FROM OUR GRAND-FATHER WHO PASSED AWAY.

WHERE DID YUKI LEARN TO PLAY GO?

Hikaru, what did you just say?!

AND AFTER HE GRADU-ATED FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HE STARTED GOING TO A GO SALON...

I SEE...

PLIP

PLIP

MY BRO-THER...?

ME? I-I'M OKAY...

IS THAT RIGHT? HOW ABOUT YOU?

YEAH. HE'S A REAL STRONG PLAYER. DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

IS YUKI ANY GOOD?

Hey, Hikaru...

YOU'RE JUST OKAY, AND YOU WANT TO PLAY AGAINST PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD?

OH, I'M SORRY. I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE.

YEAH, OF COURSE NOT. THANKS!

AND NOT ON DAYS WHEN I'M NOT HERE.

SURE, IT'S OKAY. JUST KEEP THIS BETWEEN US, OKAY?

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOURSELF NOW...

HEY, UMM...

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY? I DON'T HAVE TO PAY?

Is it true?! I can really play all the games I want?

OKAY, FIRST I HAVE TO THINK UP A NAME AND ENTER IT...

S

a

i

A USER NAME...

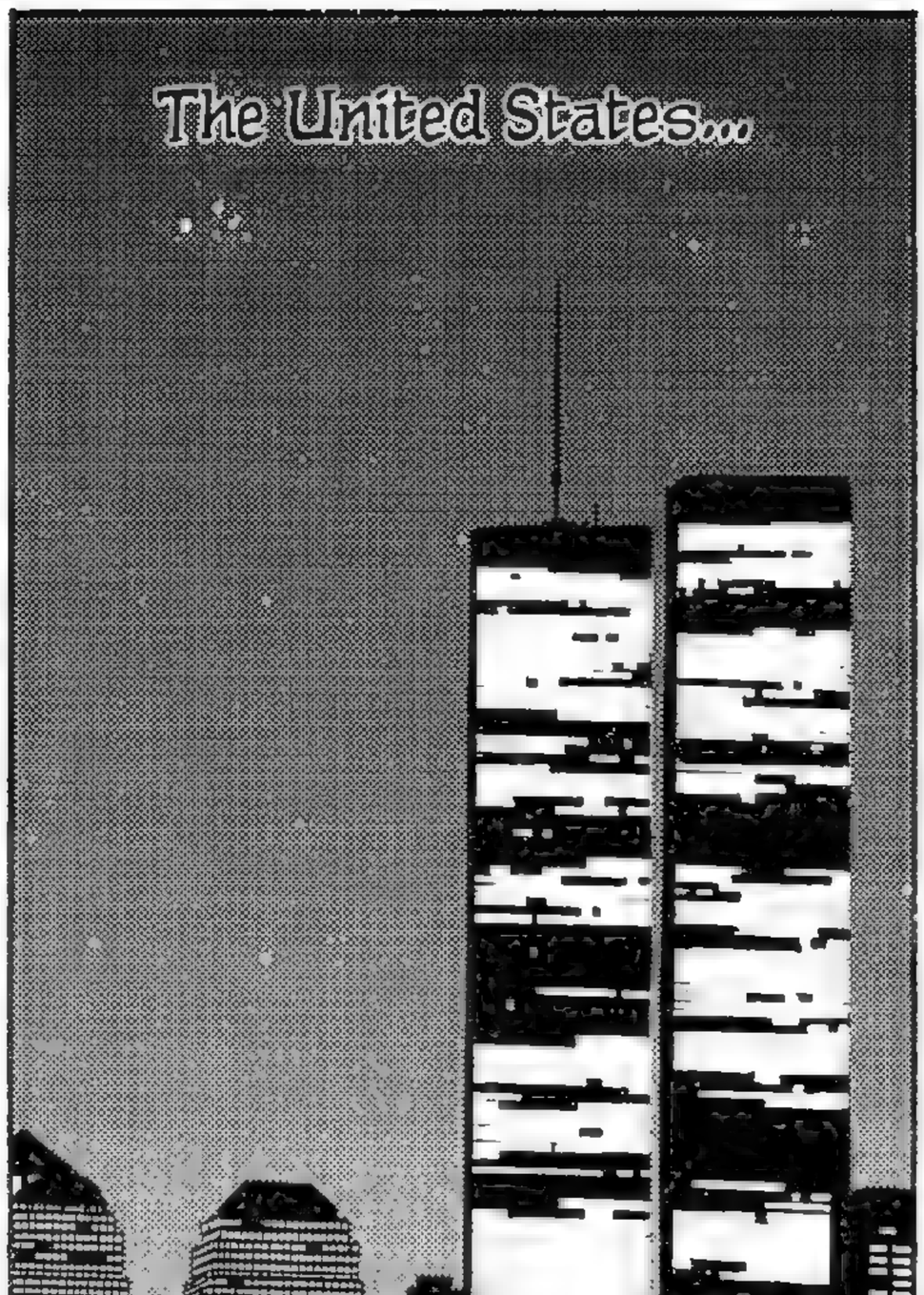
QUIET DOWN! HOLD ON A SEC!

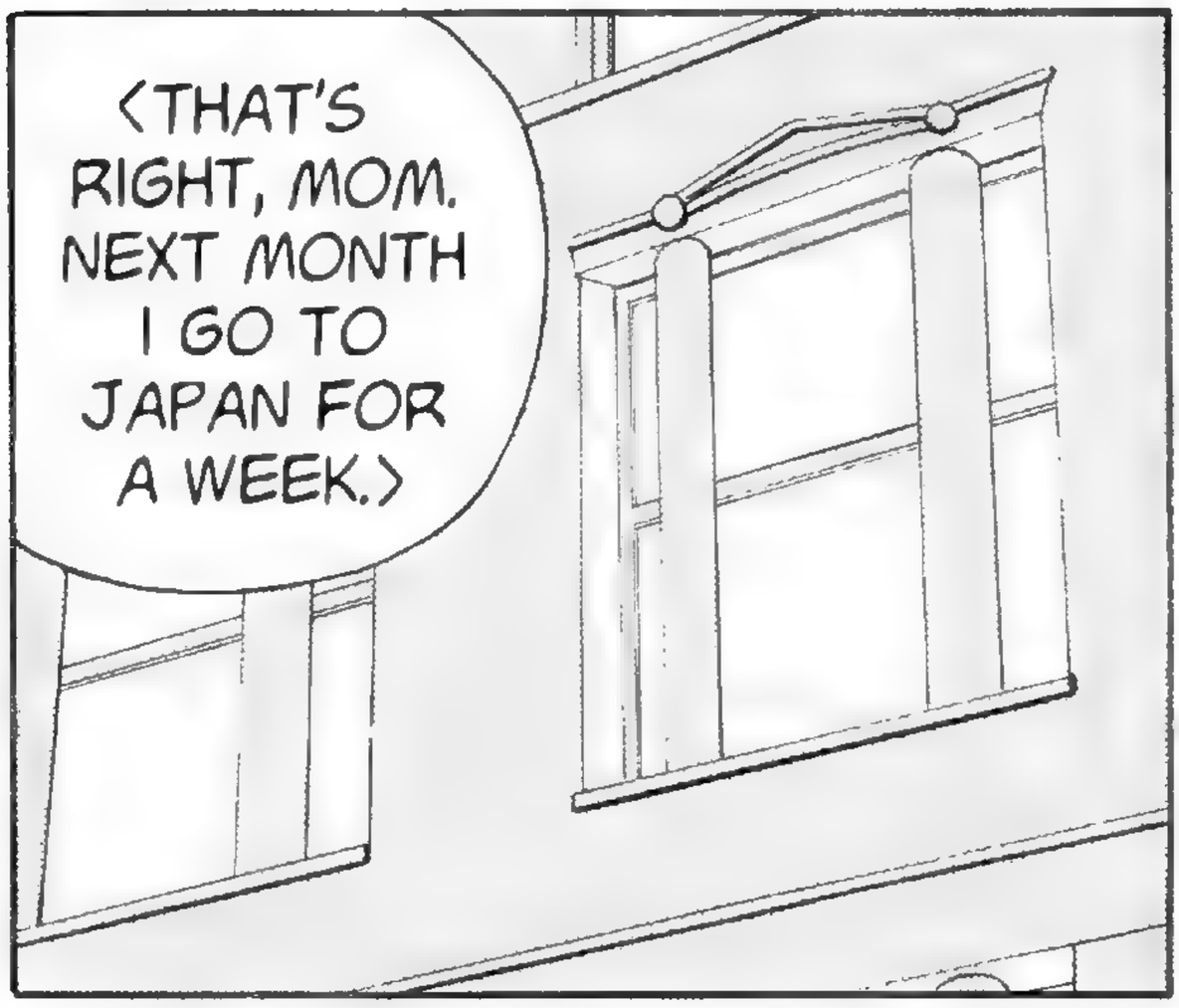
Umm...

Hurry! Hurry!

SAI!


5
W 42
NO
LOWS


The United States...


〈THAT'S RIGHT, MOM. NEXT MONTH I GO TO JAPAN FOR A WEEK.〉




〈UH-HUH, I GOT CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD AMATEUR GO CUP.〉

〈ABOUT 50 COUNTRIES ARE COMPETING, WITH ONE PERSON CHOSEN TO REPRESENT EACH COUNTRY. I MANAGED TO BE No. 1 IN THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE UNITED STATES.〉

〈THAT'S RIGHT. THE ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE VERY STRONG WITH JAPAN, CHINA AND KOREA.〉

〈US? LAST YEAR THE UNITED STATES TOOK EIGHTH PLACE.〉

ZZA

〈BUT WITH THE INTERNET, THE LEVEL OF PLAY OF THE WORLD HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY — BECAUSE NOW YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND STRONG OPPONENTS TO PLAY AGAINST.〉

〈OH, LOOK AT THIS...〉

〈AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT JAPAN HAS GOTTEN WEAKER.〉

〈YEAH, I'LL DO MY BEST.〉

TMP

SQUEAK

<SOMEONE'S ASKING ME FOR A GAME. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, MOM. YOU TAKE CARE...>

PLIP

You have a game request.

sai

Coun

k Pla

urself

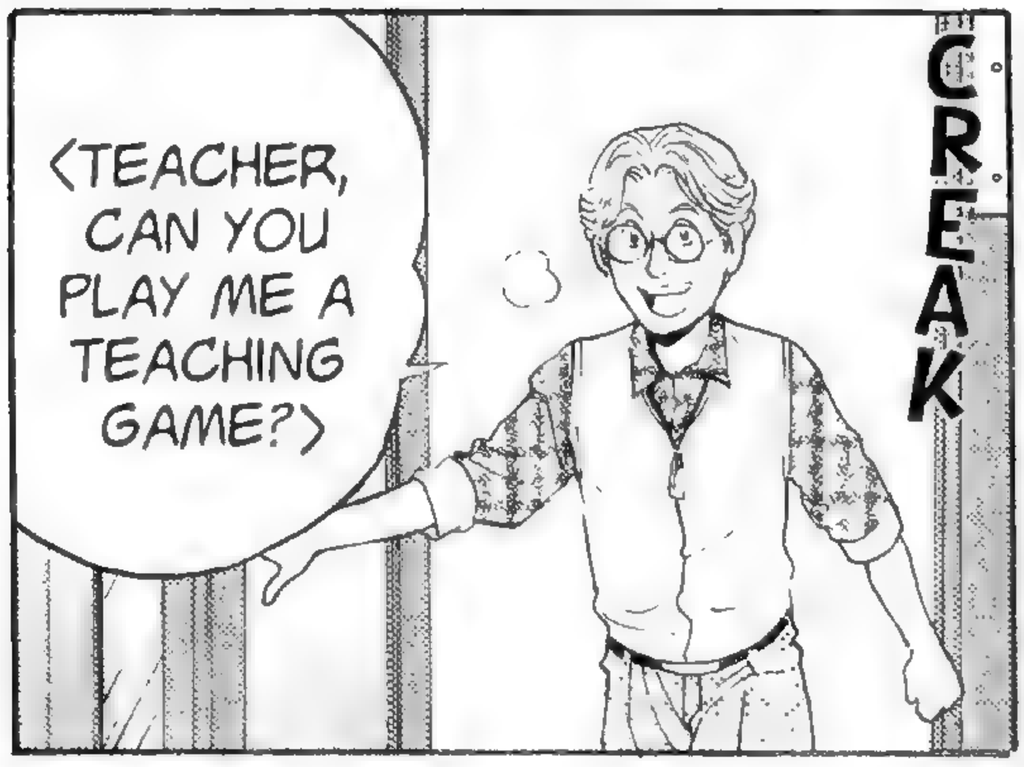
<SAI...>

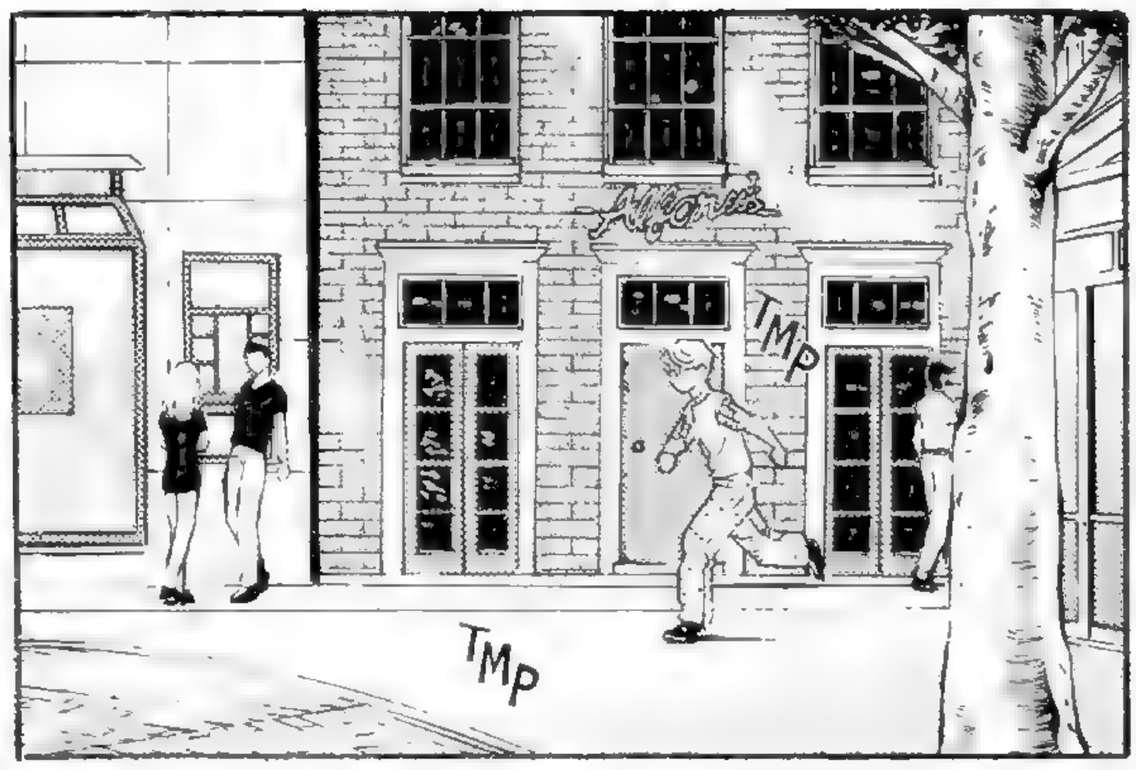
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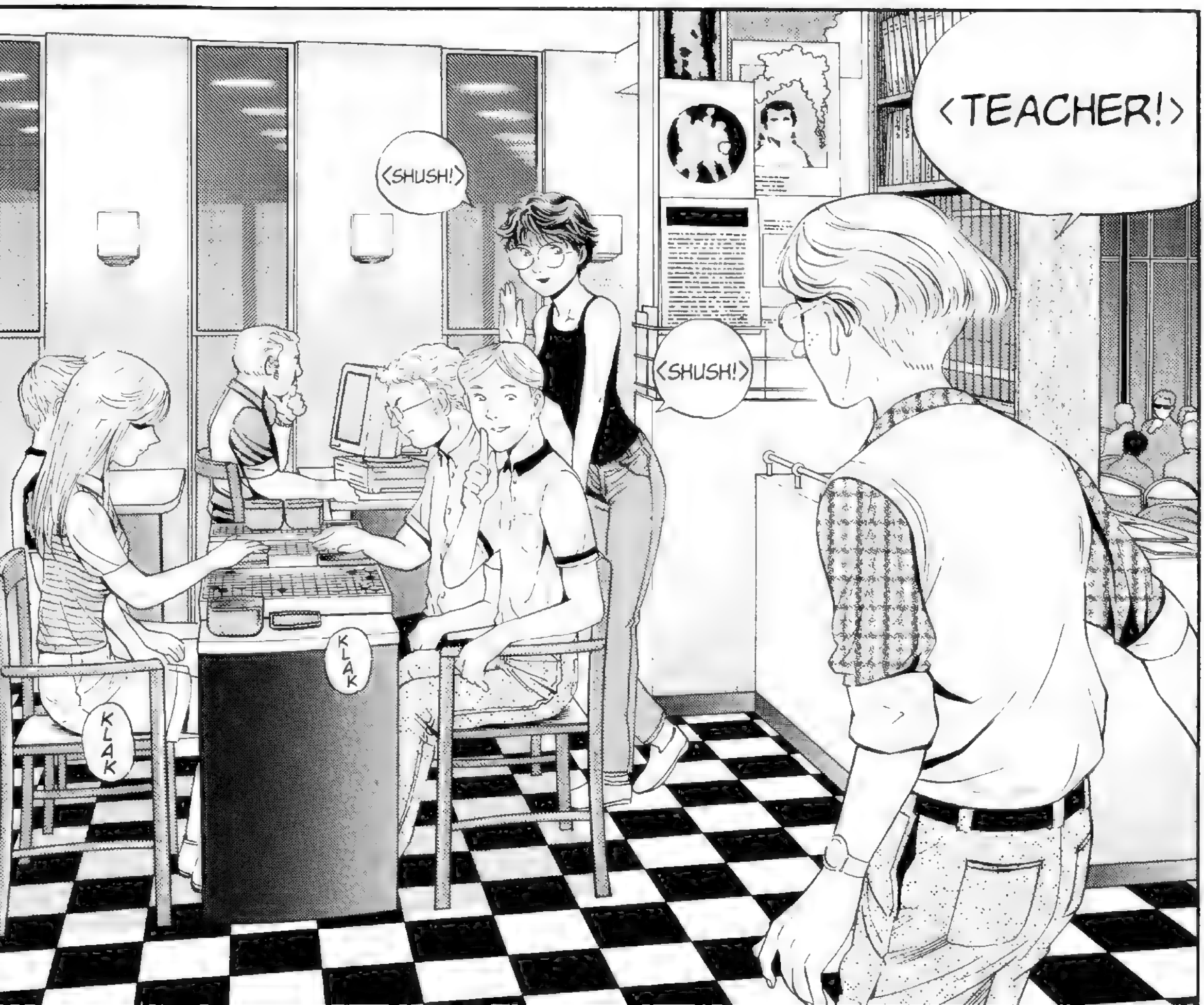
<FROM JAPAN, HUH...?>

<NEVER SEEN THIS NAME BEFORE.>

The Netherlands...







<OUR TEACHER IS PLAYING A GAME ON THE INTERNET TO PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR IGO CUP.>

<OUR TEACHER IS REALLY SOMETHING — HE'S REPRESENTING THE NETHERLANDS FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.>

<I SEE... WELL, I GUESS I'M OUT OF LUCK.>

<AFTER ALL, NONE OF US ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO BE OF ANY USE FOR HIS TRAINING.>

<WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HE ONLY TOOK SIXTH PLACE LAST YEAR!>

<BUT MAYBE THIS YEAR HE CAN TAKE OUT ONE OF THE PILLARS OF ASIA.>

TEE HEE

<HE MIGHT GET FIRED FROM HIS JOB AS A PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT.>

<HEY...>

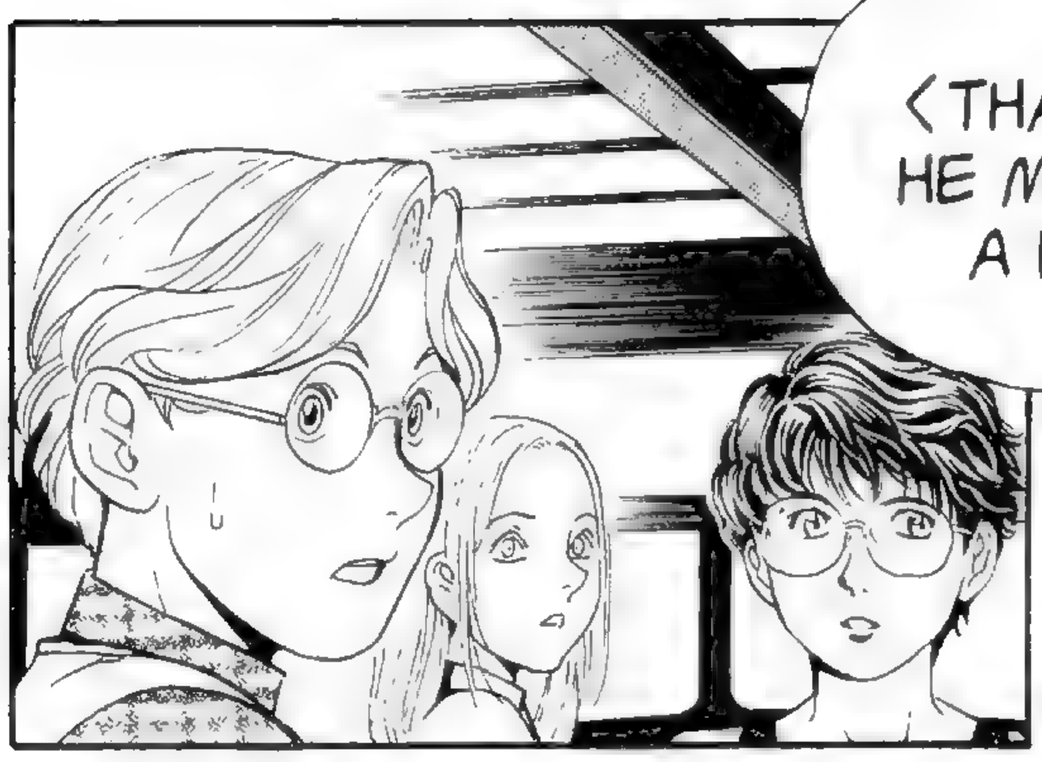
<I WONDER HOW HIS DAY JOB IS GOING.>

<HE'S SO PASSIONATE ABOUT GO, HE STARTED TEACHING CLASSES.>

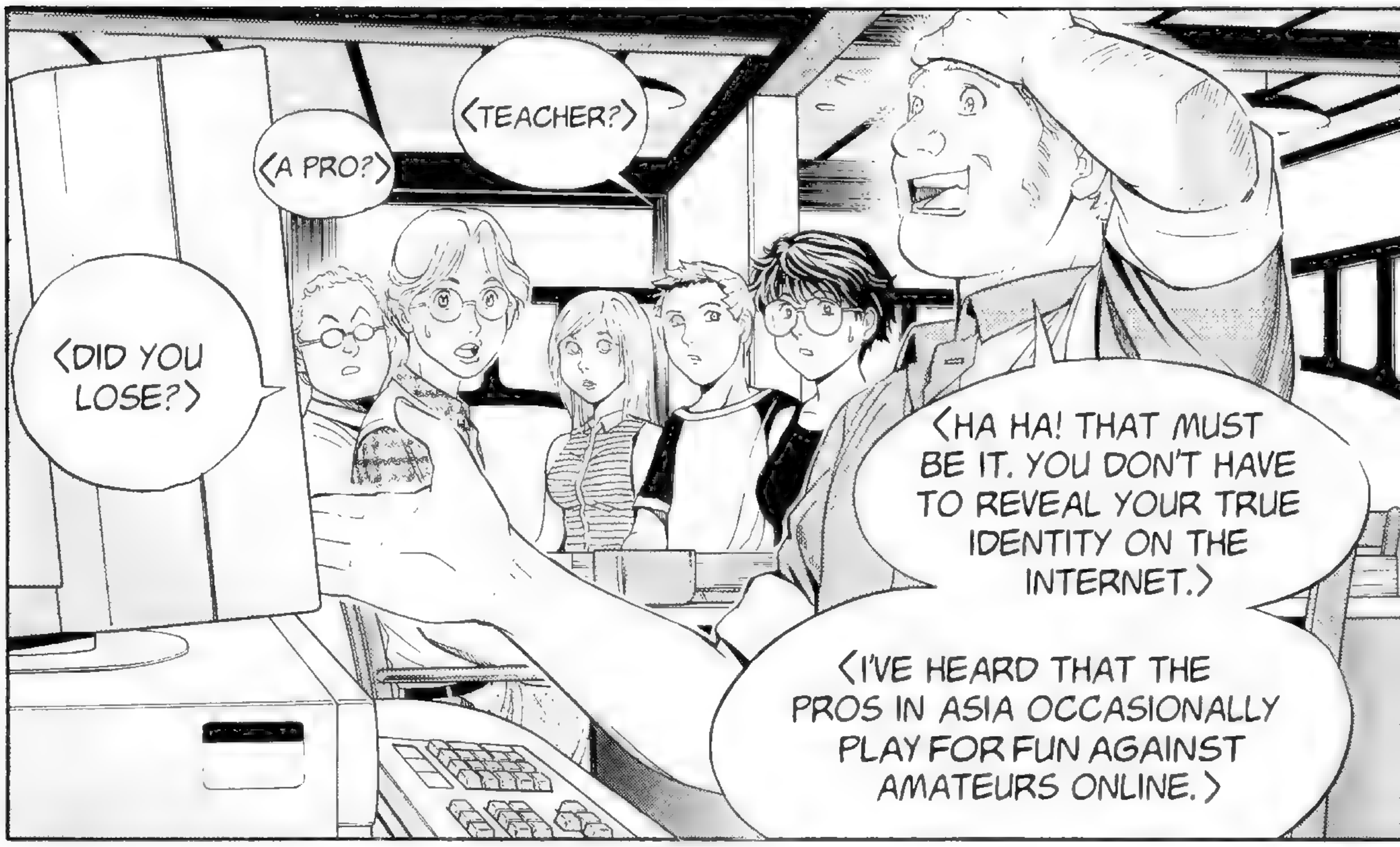
<OH, HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR GAME?>

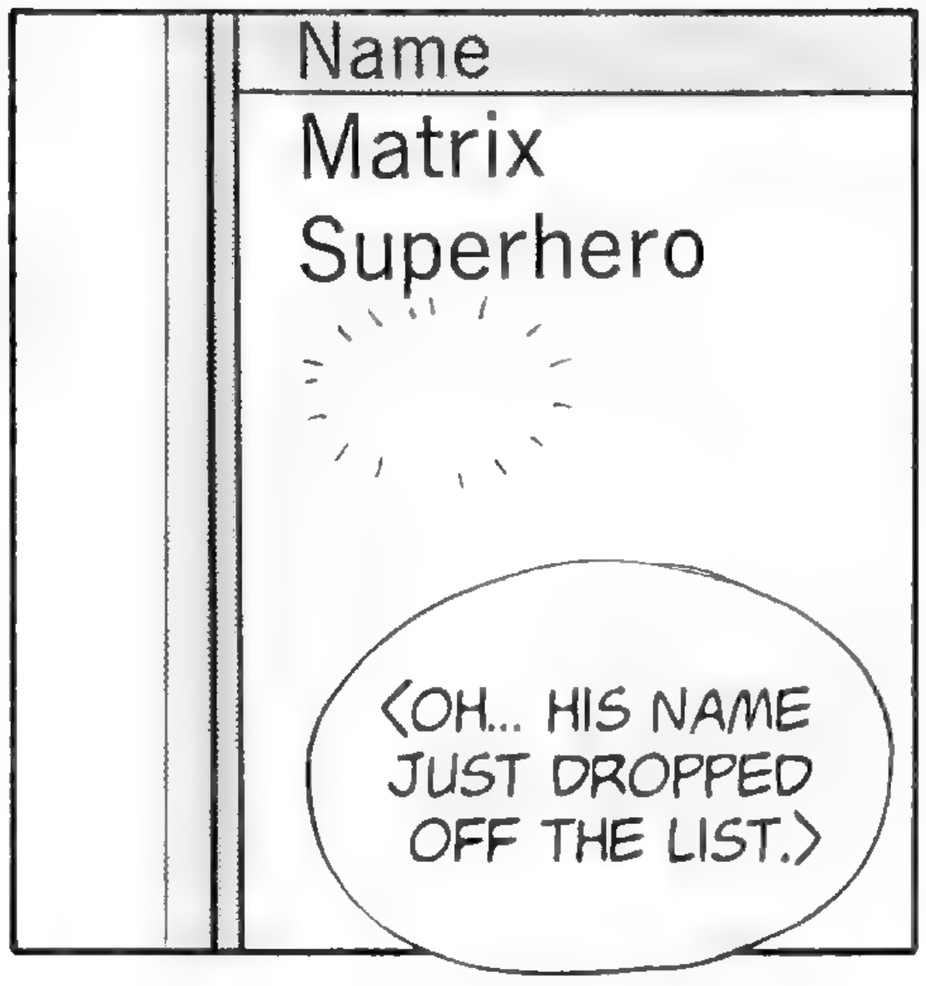
<TEACHER...?>

.....


〈THAT'S IT! HE MUST BE A PRO!〉




〈A PRO?〉
〈TEACHER?〉
〈DID YOU LOSE?〉
〈HA HA! THAT MUST BE IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY ON THE INTERNET.〉
〈I'VE HEARD THAT THE PROS IN ASIA OCCASIONALLY PLAY FOR FUN AGAINST AMATEURS ONLINE.〉


Name
Matrix
Superhero
〈OH... HIS NAME JUST DROPPED OFF THE LIST.〉


〈I LOST BIG TIME. MY OPPONENT WAS SO STRONG I ALMOST HAD A HEART ATTACK.〉
〈IT WAS TERRIBLE.〉

<WAS HE REALLY A PRO?>

<WHERE WAS HE FROM?>

.....

<I WONDER...>

<THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT NAME.>

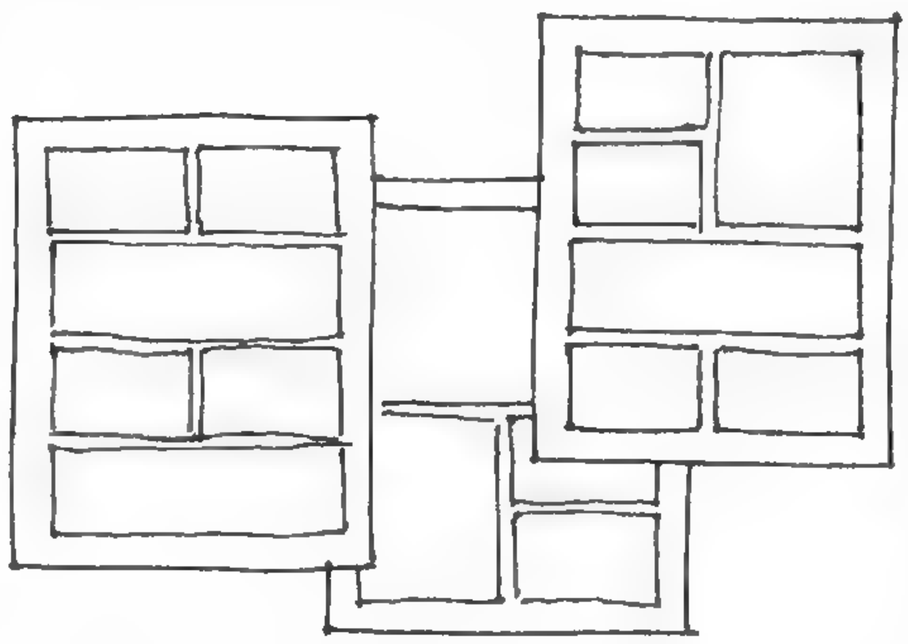
<I'VE ASKED AROUND ONLINE, BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHO THIS PERSON IS.>

<WHO IS THIS "SAI"?>

HIKARU NO GO
STORYBOARDS
10

YUMI HOTTA

...VERY PLAIN, OR PERHAPS YOU COULD SAY DULL.

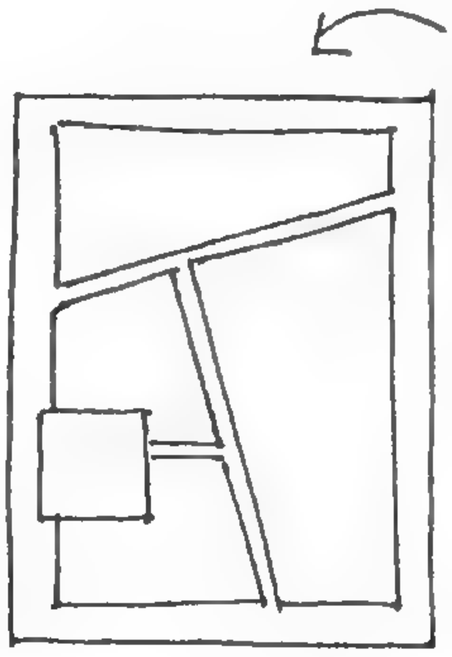


THE WAY I LAY OUT THE PANELS FOR MY STORYBOARDS IS...

DULL PANEL LAYOUTS ARE MORE CONVENIENT FOR ME. THEY'RE USEFUL WHEN IT COMES TO "REVISIONS."

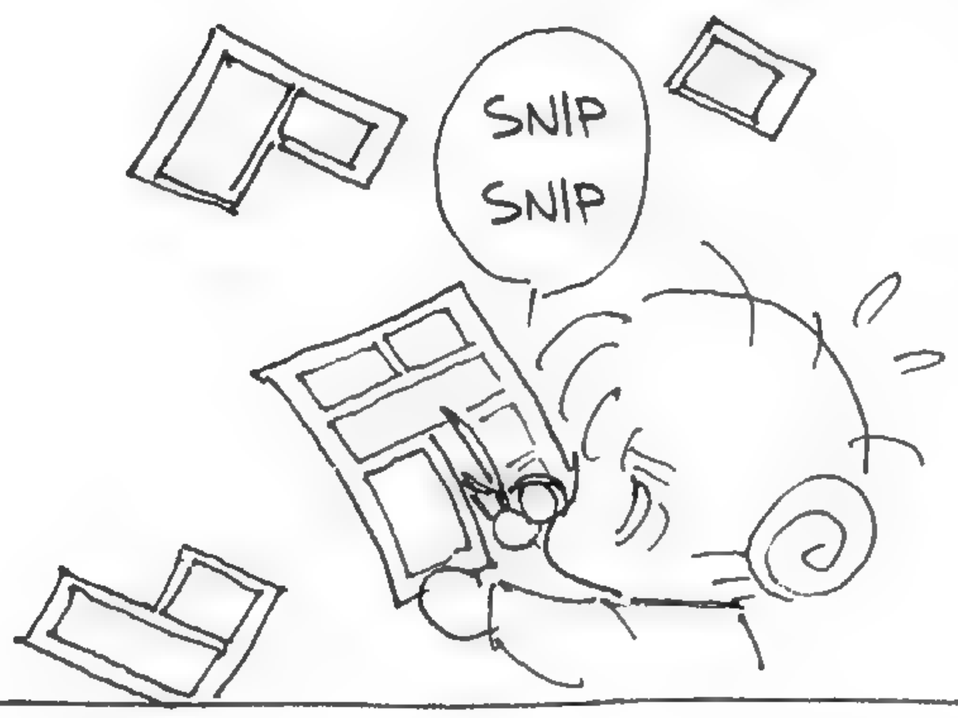
WELL, YOU SEE, IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T DO THEM...





I DON'T DO LAYOUTS LIKE THIS.

I CAN CUT PANELS, LINE THEM UP AND PASTE THEM IN.



I CAN ADD OR DELETE STORY SEGMENTS AND I CAN SHORTEN OR LENGTHEN THE "SPACE" IN BETWEEN THEM.

I MIGHT LIKE IT BETTER THAN USING A MECHANICAL PENCIL.



ODDLY ENOUGH, WORKING WITH SCISSORS AND PASTE IS FUN! IT'S LIKE HANDIWORK.

ULTIMATELY, I LEAVE THE PANEL LAYOUT UP TO OBATA SENSEI.

Game 31 "Who Is Sai?"

GASP!

ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS PERSON IS WRITING SOMETHING IN ENGLISH TO ME!*

WHAT'S WRONG?

*Hikaru, like most kids in Japan, won't learn English until middle school. That's why he's asking Yuki's sister to translate for him.

NO, THIS GUY'S TOO WEAK.

WOW, YOU'RE GREAT!

hat

too good !
you professional player ?

"ARE YOU A PRO?"

IT SAYS "YOU'RE TOO GOOD...

READ THIS WAY

THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO REPLY TO SOME-ONE.

THEN BRING YOUR POINTER OVER HERE AND CLICK.

NO WAY!!

DON'T YOU WANT TO ANSWER HIM?

Hmm...

THINGS SURE GET COMPLICATED WHEN YOU PLAY WITH PEOPLE ABROAD.

THANKS!

Hmph

I TOLD YOU NOT TO ASK ME.

It's so odd. How does this box allow one to play Go against different people?

HEY!

SHALL WE PLAY AGAINST A JAPANESE PERSON NEXT?

Name

N.ko
mamo
zelda
ssu
kenji
sweet boy

FROM THE OTHER DAY!

IT'S ZELDA!

Yes, indeed!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF, SAI.

Yay! Another game! ♡

LET'S PLAY AGAINST HIM!

YOU CAN PLAY FOR A WHILE. AFTER ALL, IT'S SUMMER.

A kid?

WOW! WOW!

THIS GUY'S JAPANESE. HE MIGHT EVEN BE A KID!

READ THIS WAY

KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK

KLIK
KLIK

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT USED TO THE CONTROLS ON THE COMPUTER!

Hikaru, be careful not to play in the wrong place. Last time, you —

KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK

KLIK
KLIK

WELL, SAI...? IS THIS GUY ANY GOOD?

KLIK

KLIK

BUT HE JUST RESIGNED FROM THE GAME...

HMM...

10-1...

He's strong. As strong as any I've faced.

The weaker the player, the more likely they will continue to play a game that is impossible to win. They just do not have the foresight.

It's because he's a strong player that he can quickly and accurately judge the positions on the board. He can tell how strong I am and he probably feels that to play any further would be futile.

HEY, YUKI'S SISTER...

I WONDER IF HE REALLY IS A KID.

All right, that's enough!

Just like you used to be, Hikaru.

WOW! YOU WON AGAIN?

WONDER WHAT HE'LL SAY...

WILL YOU WRITE AND TELL HIM, "I'M PRETTY STRONG, AREN'T I?"

Chat Window

Fixed Chat

sai> I'm pretty strong, aren't I?

Zelda> Who are you? I'm an Insei!

↑Chat enter field

THE INTER-NET'S PRETTY FUN.

HEH HEH!

HIKARU, COULD YOU FINISH UP WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE? MY SHIFT IS ALMOST OVER.

AN INSEI?!

ZELDA...

I'M ALL DONE! THANKS!

SKOOT

TODAY'S EVENTS

6TH FLOOR
PROFESSIONAL
GO PLAYERS TEST-
PRELIMINARIES

2ND FLOOR
OPEN GAMES

HE'S TRYING TO BECOME A PRO...

JAPAN GO ASSOCIATION

PRO GO PLAYERS TEST — PRELIMINARIES

SHF KLAK

KLAK

SHF KLAK

SHF KLAK

KLAK

SHF KLAK

SHF KLAK

KLAK

SHF KLAK

SKOOT

IT'S TIME. PLEASE STOP YOUR GAMES UNTIL AFTER THE LUNCH BREAK IS OVER.

HEY, WAYA!

.....

WHY'RE YOU SO DEEP IN THOUGHT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HUH?!

...

...

DID YOU MAKE A BIG MISTAKE IN THE FIRST HALF OR SOME-THING?

NO! NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!

IT'S NOT GOOD FOR ME TO BE ON EDGE LIKE THIS.

DARN IT! THIS HAD TO HAPPEN RIGHT BEFORE THE PRO TEST.

DARN IT! I SHOULDN'T LET THAT GUY GET TO ME LIKE THIS.

HA HA HA...

I TOLD YOU!

LOOK AT *THAT* FUR-ROWED-BROW!

WHOA!

BUT I SHOULDN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT OTHERS...

WELL, IT'S BECAUSE THIS TEST ONLY HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR...

.....

AND THIS KID HERE IS KEEPING ALL TO HIMSELF...

HMPH!...

UH... YES...?

AKIRA TOYA...?

I·C INC

SO THAT'S HIM...

HMM...

BUT NO ONE'S REALLY SEEN HIM BEFORE...

I HEARD THAT TOYA MEIJIN'S KID WAS GOING TO TAKE THE PRO TEST THIS YEAR BUT...

THAT'S HIM?

BECAUSE I'M PLAYING AGAINST HIM TODAY.

HE'S GOT ME TOTALLY BEAT.

I KNEW HE WAS AKIRA TOYA.

HOW?

UH-HUH... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M TAKING THE PRO TEST...

ARE YOU TWO INSEI?

WHAT'S THAT TONE OF VOICE?!

RIGHT?

BUT IT'S WAYA'S THIRD.

BUT IT'S TRUE...

HOW CAN A GUY WHO'S TRYING TO GO PRO BE SUCH A WHINER?!

KRNCH

THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET! MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE A COMEBACK AGAINST THIS GUY!

sigh

OH WELL, GUESS TODAY'S GAME IS A LOST CAUSE. I ALREADY HAVE A LOSS ON THE FIRST DAY.

.....

DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN?

WAYA, WHY'RE YOU SO GRUMPY TODAY?

...AND I LOST TO A REALLY STRONG PLAYER...

I WAS PLAYING GO ONLINE...

I DOUBT A PRO WOULD WRITE SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

AND THEN HE WROTE "I'M PRETTY STRONG, AREN'T I?" WHAT NERVE!

HE WAS SO GOOD, HE *HAD* TO BE A PRO.

NO ONE'S TALKING TO YOU!

READ THIS WAY

.....

SIMMER DOWN, WAYA...

ONE GAME A DAY FOR FIVE DAYS...

.....

ALL OF OUR OPPO-NENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET.

I CAN'T BE THINKING ABOUT THAT SAI!

YUP... TOMORROW I'M UP AGAINST No. 12 AND THE DAY AFTER THAT I FACE No. 7.

AND NEXT MONTH, THOSE WHO WIN THREE OR MORE GAMES MOVE ON TO THE MAIN PART OF THE PRO TEST.

DARN IT! I WANT TO GET MY THREE WINS OVER WITH SO I CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ROUND.

I'M No. 7.

HEY, WE'RE GOING TO START UP AGAIN.

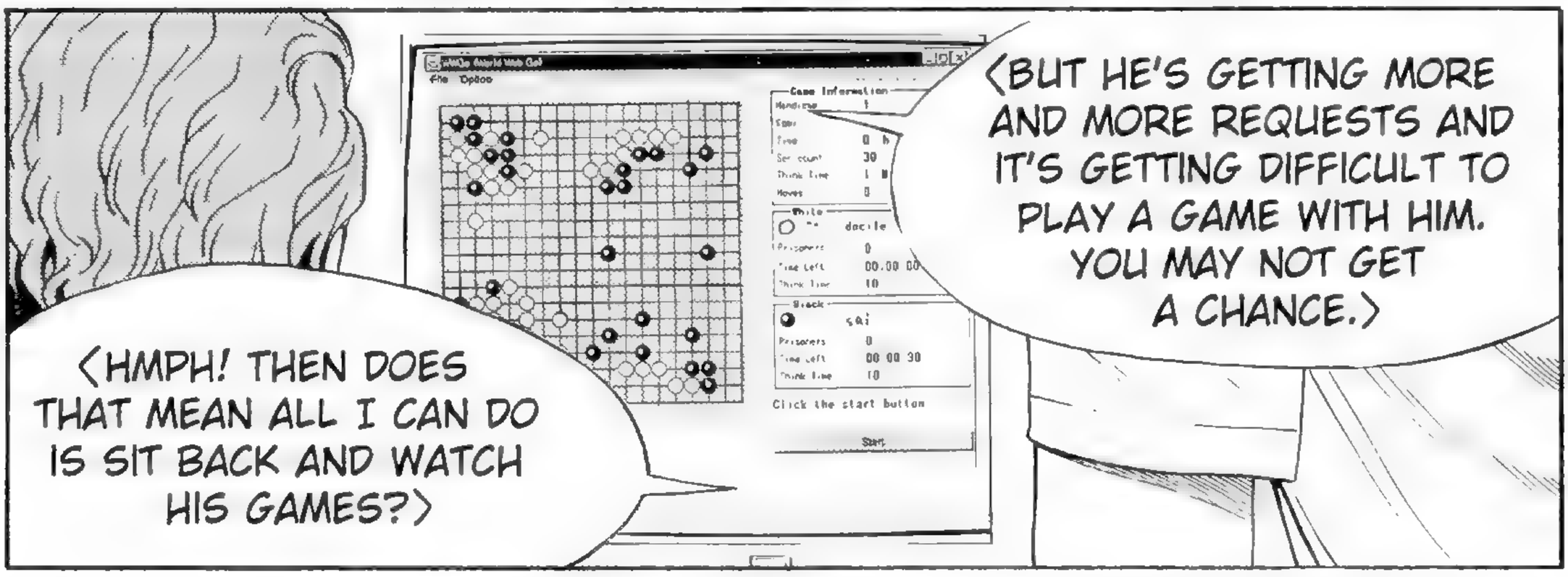
HEY, WAYA... WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THAT STRONG PLAYER ON THE INTERNET TRAIN YOU?

YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF!

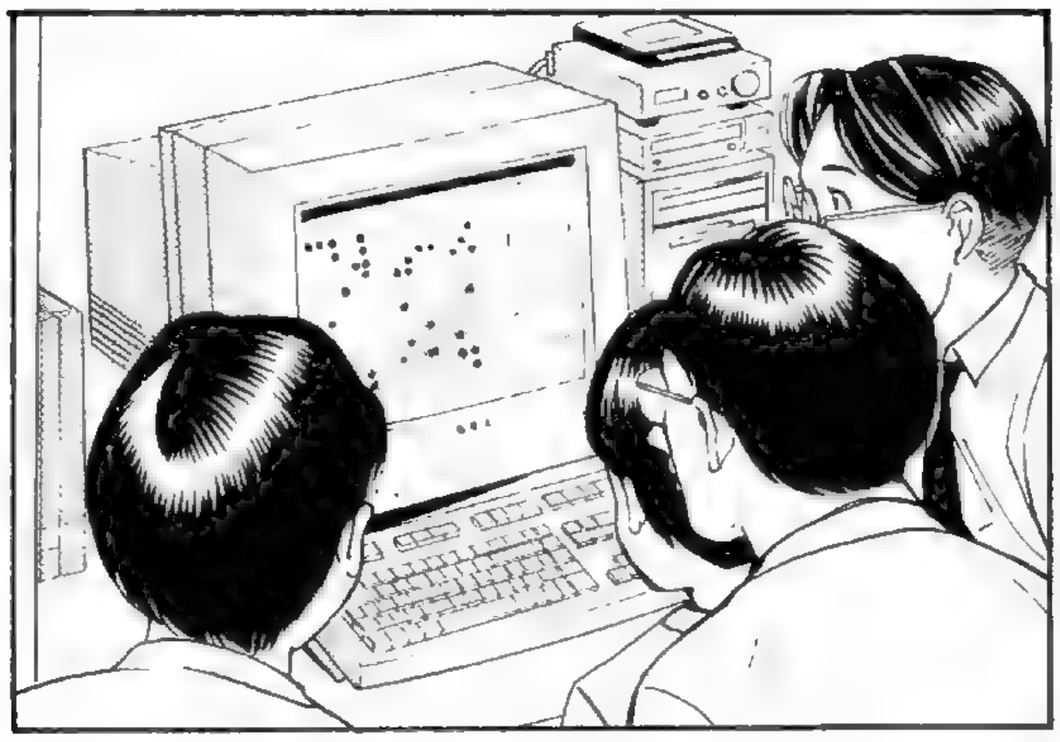
AND THEN WHEN YOU HAVE TO FACE AKIRA TOYA —


〈AS LAST YEAR'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE U.S., WHAT DO YOU THINK?〉
〈HE'S GREAT! I DEFINITELY WANT TO PLAY A GAME AGAINST HIM.〉


〈SO THIS IS SAI...〉

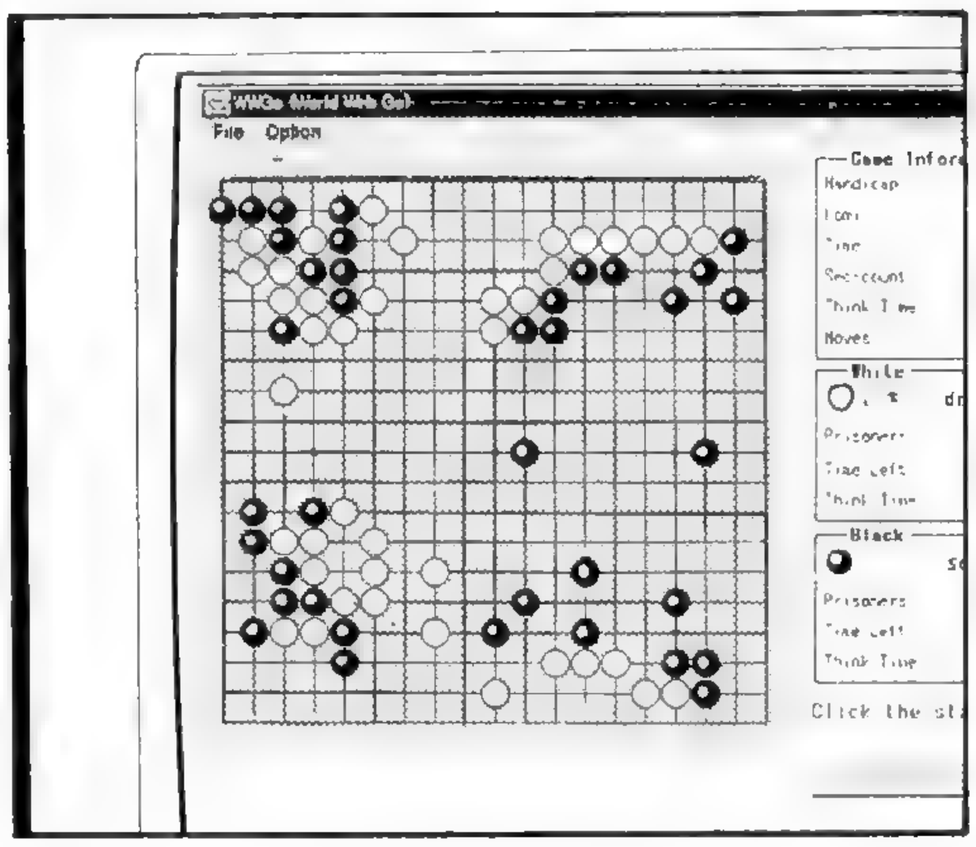

〈HMPH! THEN DOES THAT MEAN ALL I CAN DO IS SIT BACK AND WATCH HIS GAMES?〉
Game Information
Click the start button
Start
〈BUT HE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE REQUESTS AND IT'S GETTING DIFFICULT TO PLAY A GAME WITH HIM. YOU MAY NOT GET A CHANCE.〉


〈EVERYONE ON THE INTERNET IS BECOMING AWARE OF SAI'S PRESENCE.〉



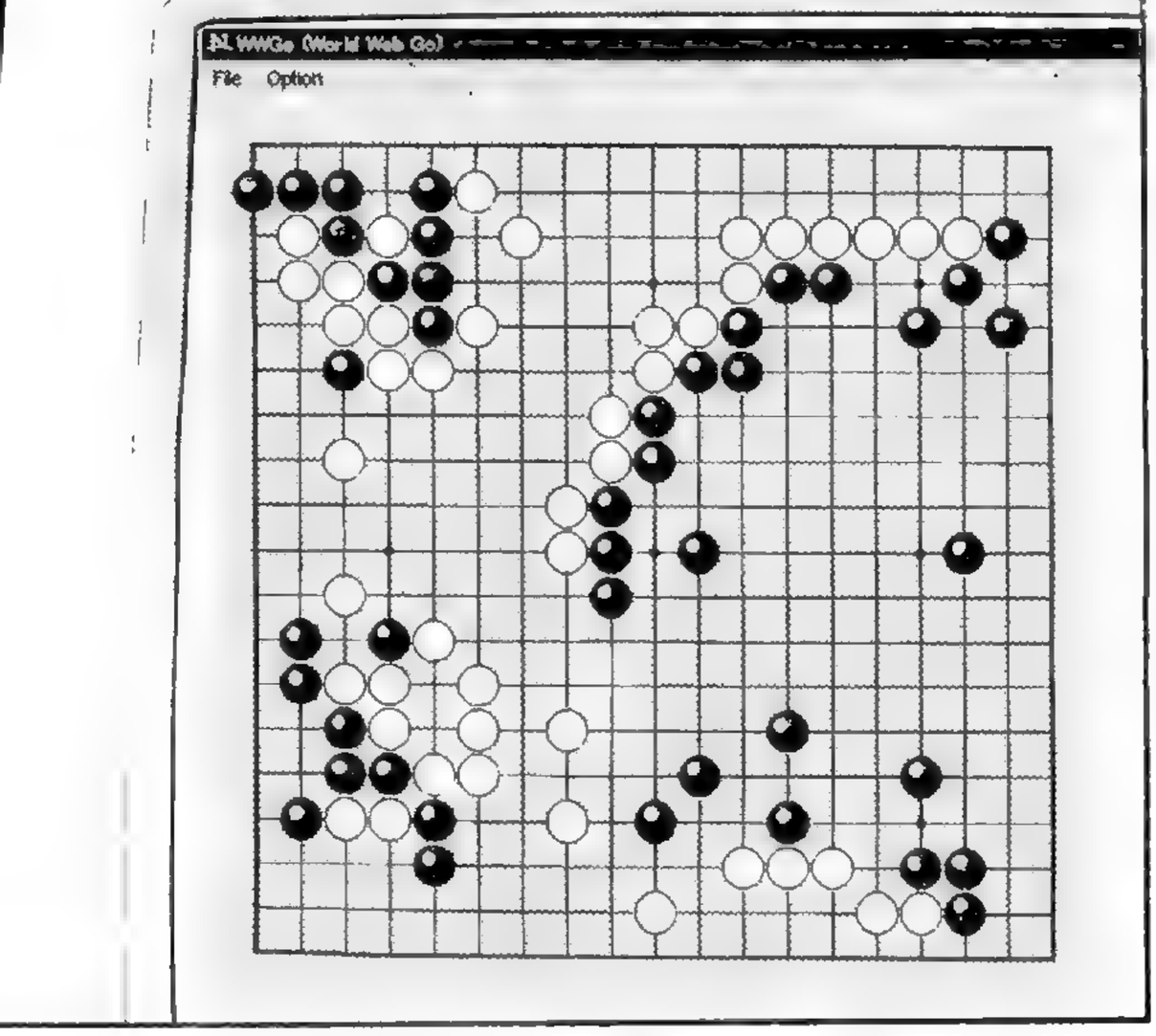





File Option
Black


〈TEACHER, IS THIS PERSON A PRO?〉
〈I DOUBT IT. A PRO WOULDN'T PLAY AGAINST AMATEURS SO REGULARLY.〉


〈EVERY DAY HE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE CHALLENGES.〉
〈EVERYONE IS STARTING TO TAKE NOTICE OF SAI.〉

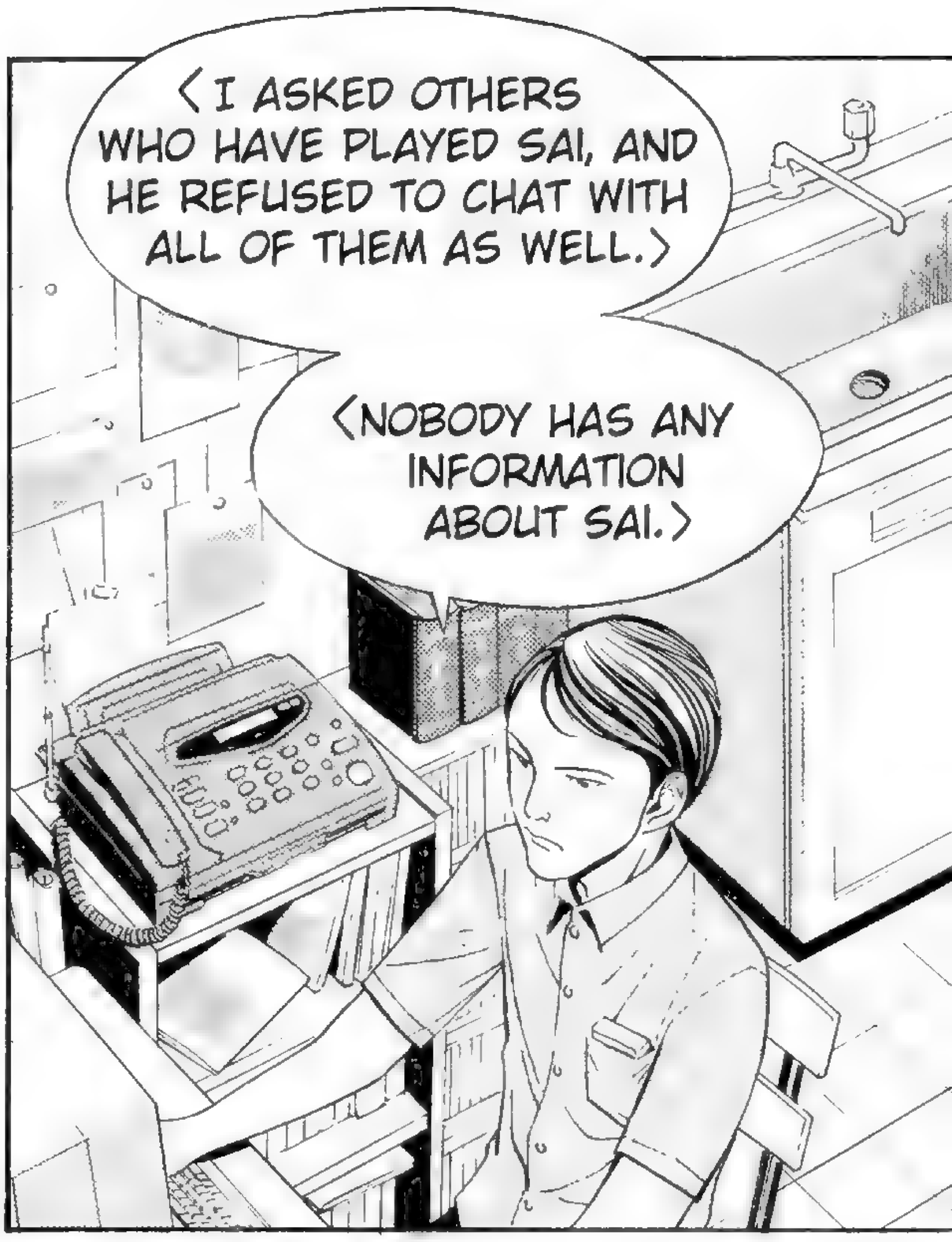

WWGo (World Web Go)
File Option


〈HE'S NOT A PRO...〉


BUT IF HE'S NOT A PRO, THEN WHO IS HE?
.....


〈WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM DIRECTLY?〉
〈MAYBE HE'S A GO GENIUS.〉
〈I PLAYED SAI ONCE... AT THAT TIME HE REFUSED TO CHAT WITH ME.〉


〈BUT THE WORLD AMATEUR GO CUP IS COMING UP. WHEN I GO TO JAPAN...〉


〈I ASKED OTHERS WHO HAVE PLAYED SAI, AND HE REFUSED TO CHAT WITH ALL OF THEM AS WELL.〉
〈NOBODY HAS ANY INFORMATION ABOUT SAI.〉


〈WHEN I GO TO JAPAN...〉


〈WHEN I GO TO JAPAN, I MAY BE ABLE TO FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT SAI.〉


HE MIGHT EVEN BE STRONGER THAN MY SENSEI!
HE'S INCREDIBLE. BUT WHO IS THIS GUY?

AND EVER SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN ONLINE SO MUCH.

I FIRST SAW SAI AT THE END OF JULY...

JULY... AUGUST... WAIT, THAT'S SUMMER VACATION... COULD SAI BE...

HE'S ALWAYS PLAYING IN THE AFTERNOON... DOESN'T THIS GUY HAVE A JOB?

...A KID?!

OSHI

AND SO GAME 32 WAS SUPPOSED TO BEGIN WITH AN AIRPLANE SCENE...



GAME 31 ENDS WITH AN AIRPLANE SCENE.

HIKARU NO GO STORYBOARDS

11

YUMI HOTTA



I HAD TO START WITH THE JAPAN GO ASSOCIATION SCENE...

OH NO...



BUT AFTER SOME STORY-BOARD REVISIONS, THE NUMBER OF PAGES MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO INCLUDE THE AIRPLANE SCENE — SO IT WAS CUT.

YAY! IF AN INSTALL-MENT ENDS WITH AN AIRPLANE, THEN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT SHOULD START WITH AN AIRPLANE!



BUT THEN, OBATA SENSEI TOOK ON WHAT I HAD STARTED WITH THE END OF GAME 31. HE INCLUDED AN AIRPLANE ON THE TITLE PAGE OF GAME 32!

AFTER I WRITE THIS I ALWAYS THINK "OKAY, I'VE GOT ONE PAGE DONE!" AND THAT'S HOW I ALWAYS START.

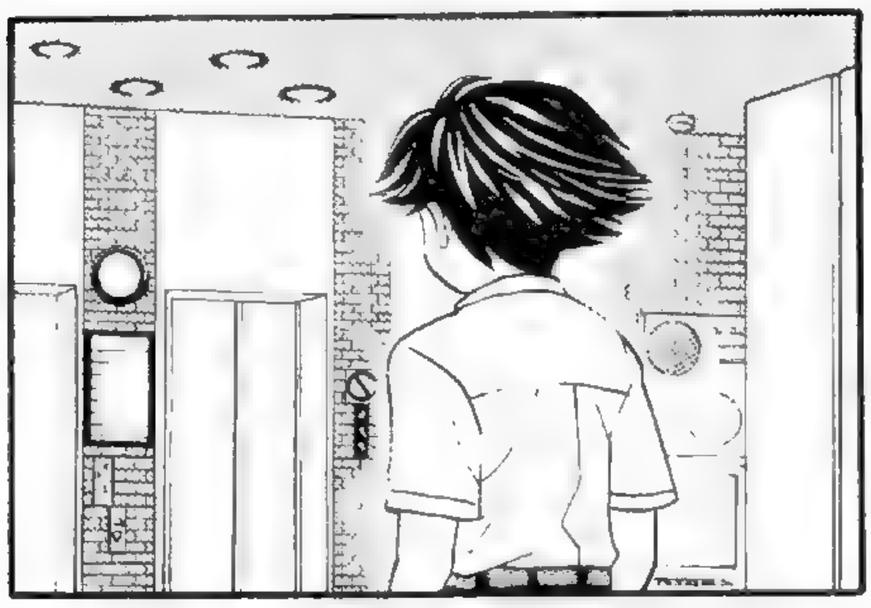


THIS IS ALL THAT I DO FOR THE TITLE PAGES OF MY STORY-BOARDS.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TITLE PAGES. SO RECENT TITLE PAGES SUCH AS FOR GAME 25, GAME 26 OR GAME 28 WERE COM-PLETELY CREATED BY OBATA SENSEI.

Game 32
"He Is Not Sai"






© JAPAN GO ASSO
日本棋院会館
AKANE
蘇仙
AKANE
AKANE
AKANE

THE 20TH WORLD AMATEUR GO CHAM
第20回国際アマチュア囲碁カッ
催：日本棋院
う！ 囲碁オリンピ

STARTING TODAY, YOU WILL PLAY TWO GAMES A DAY FOR FOUR DAYS — THAT'S A TOTAL OF EIGHT GAMES.

<...TWO GAMES A DAY FOR FOUR DAYS — A TOTAL OF EIGHT GAMES.>

1ST ROUND MATCHUPS

DO YOUR BEST AND ENJOY YOUR GAMES!

SAI...

THE MYS-TERIOUS PLAYER ON THE INTER-NET...

<DO YOUR BEST AND HAVE FUN!>

Game Information

WHEN I PLAYED HIM LAST MONTH, I WAS IMPRES-SED BY HOW STRONG HE WAS.

...I'VE OBSERVED A GREAT NUMBER OF SAI'S GAMES.

I SAW HIS GAME YESTERDAY, TOO...

AND SINCE THEN...

IN ONE MONTH'S TIME, HIS GAME HAS CHANGED...

SNAP

TEACHER, PLEASE FIND OUT SAI'S IDENTITY!

SNAP

<IT'S SO COOL. A GREAT PLAYER ON THE INTERNET WITH A SECRET IDENTITY!>

.....

<I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SAI...>

SNAP

<BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.>

<FIRST, I HAVE TO DO MY BEST IN THIS TOURNAMENT...>

<MY FIRST PRIORITY IS TO WIN THE CUP AND BRING IT BACK TO CHINA.>

<I MUST NOT LOSE TO JAPAN OR KOREA.>

<FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT SAI COMES AFTER THAT...>

<PLEASE CHOOSE FOR COLOR.>

1ST ROUND MATCHUPS

<PLEASE CHOOSE FOR COLOR.>

THE 20TH WORLD AMATEUR Go CHAMPIONSHIP
第20回国際アマチュア囲碁カップ

SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
SHFF

PLEASE BEGIN.

<PLEASE BEGIN.>

KLAK
KCHK
KLAK
KLAK

MORISHITA SENSEI, THANK YOU FOR SERV-ING AS HEAD REFEREE FOR FOUR DAYS.

WELL, THE HARD PART'S OVER WITH ONCE THE TOURNA-MENT IS UNDER WAY.

IT MUST BE HARD WORK, BEING IN CHARGE OF THIS ENTIRE TOURNA-MENT.

BUT THIS TOURNA-MENT IS MY FAVORITE...

EVERY YEAR THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATE GROWS, AND I CAN TELL THAT GO IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD.

ALL THE PLAYERS FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS — SOME PLAYERS DON'T RECEIVE THE MATERIALS WE SEND THEM OR SOME GOVERN-MENTS ARE UNSTABLE AND PLAYERS CAN'T LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY...

THE DIFFICULT PART IS BEFORE ALL THE PLAYERS GET TO JAPAN.

ALL OUR EFFORTS ARE REWARDED.

WAYA!

SENSEI...

.....

WHAT'S THAT EXPRESSION YOU HAVE ON YOUR FACE?

YES. I TOLD HIM TO COME HELP OUT TODAY.

ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS?

YOU MIGHT NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GO AGAINST THE TOP WORLD AMATEURS, BUT YOU CAN STILL TEACH THE LOWER-LEVEL PLAYERS A THING OR TWO.

...SOME OF THE FOREIGN PLAYERS WILL HAVE SPARE TIME BETWEEN MATCHES. I WANT YOU TO PLAY A FEW GAMES WITH THEM.

I ASKED YOU TO COME BE-CAUSE...

READ THIS WAY

AND THAT LOSS...

THIS ONE HERE, HE PASSED THE PRELIMS FOR THE PRO GO TEST WITH THREE WINS AND ONE LOSS.

GOT IT?

SINCE THEY CAME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE TO JAPAN, WE SHOULD TRY TO TEACH THEM AS MUCH AS WE CAN IN THE TIME THAT THEY HAVE HERE.

AH, AKIRA TOYA...

HA HA HA

...WAS TO TOYA MEIJIN'S SON!

THERE'S THIS REALLY STRONG PLAYER...

I *HEARD* HE WAS TAKING THE TEST THIS YEAR.

DON'T YOU LOSE IN THE NEXT ROUND!

SENSEI!

HE'S PLAYING ON THE INTERNET!

NO!

I KNOW. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TOYA JUNIOR, RIGHT?

THIS GUY'S STRONGER THAN THAT!

THEN HE'S AN AMATEUR. THERE ARE SOME REALLY GOOD AMATEURS OUT THERE, YOU KNOW. SHIMANO, JAPAN'S REPRESENTATIVE IN TODAY'S TOURNAMENT, CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST THE PROS.

HE'S NOT A PRO. HE PLAYS ONLINE EVEN ON SCHEDULED GAME DAYS.

PROBABLY SOME PRO...

HE'S STRONGER THAN YOU!

STRONGER? HOW STRONG IS HE?

SENSEI, WAIT HERE...

IS THERE A COMPUTER AROUND HERE THAT CAN GO ONLINE?

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SAY THAT...

THERE'S A LAPTOP IN THE STAFF ROOM...

KCHK

EXCUSE ME.

SURE...

I'M GOING TO BORROW THIS FOR A SEC.

HERE IT IS.

NOT HERE...

KLIK

.....

KLIK

国際アマチ

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS PERSON LATER. RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

HE'S NOT PLAYING NOW, BUT HE'S ONLINE ALL THE TIME!

.....

.....

SHF

KLAK

〈I RESIGN...〉

SHFF

〈THANKS FOR THE GAME.〉

SHFF

SKOOT

LEE FROM CHINA WON HIS GAME.

KCHK

KCHK

KLAK

KLAK

THE WORLD AMATEUR JAPANESE REPRESEN-TATIVE...

KCHK

KLAK

SAI IS FROM JAPAN...

NO, THAT'S NOT SAI.

THIS PERSON'S STRENGTH IS NOTHING COMPARED TO SAI'S.





BUT IF SAI IS SO STRONG...

THERE MUST BE OTHERS BESIDES ME LOOKING FOR HIM...

KLAK KCHK KLAK KCHK KLAK KCHK



...SAI...

MUTTER

...WHO HAVE GONE UP AGAINST SAI...

THERE MUST BE OTHERS IN THIS TOUR-NAMENT HALL...

!

OVER HERE!

WAYA!

<HE IS SEMI-PRO.>

<OH!>

!

THIS ONE HERE IS AN ASPIRING PRO.

GYA HA HA HA

B-BUT I CAN'T SPEAK ANY ENGLISH!!

NO NEED! NO NEED FOR THAT!

LET HIM HAVE SIX STONES.

...

LEE IS LOOKING AT JAPANESE REP SHIMANO'S MATCH.

JAPAN, CHINA AND KOREA—THIS YEAR NONE OF 'EM IS GOING TO GIVE AN INCH.

IN-DEED...

<IT'S NOT HIM...>

<HE'S STRONG, BUT...>


〈THIS IS NOT SAI.〉

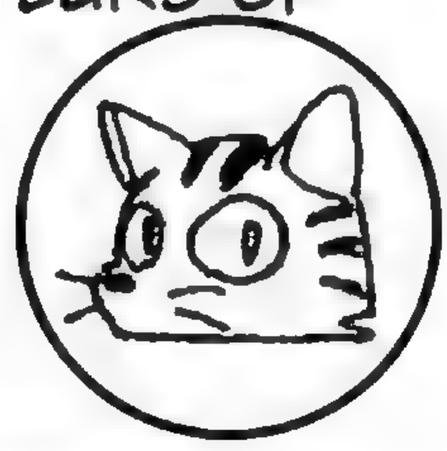
A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

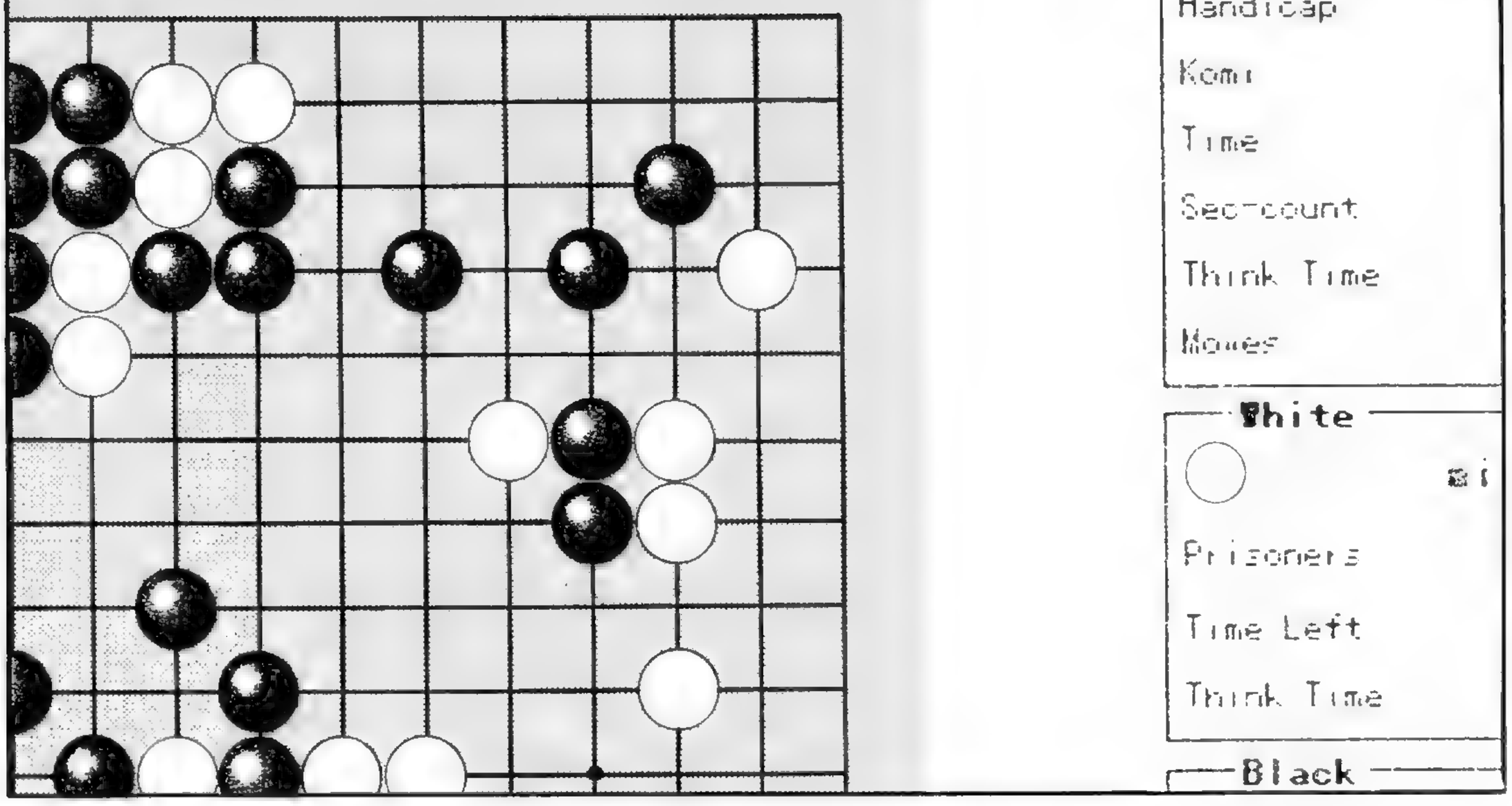
THE WORLD AMATEUR TOURNAMENT



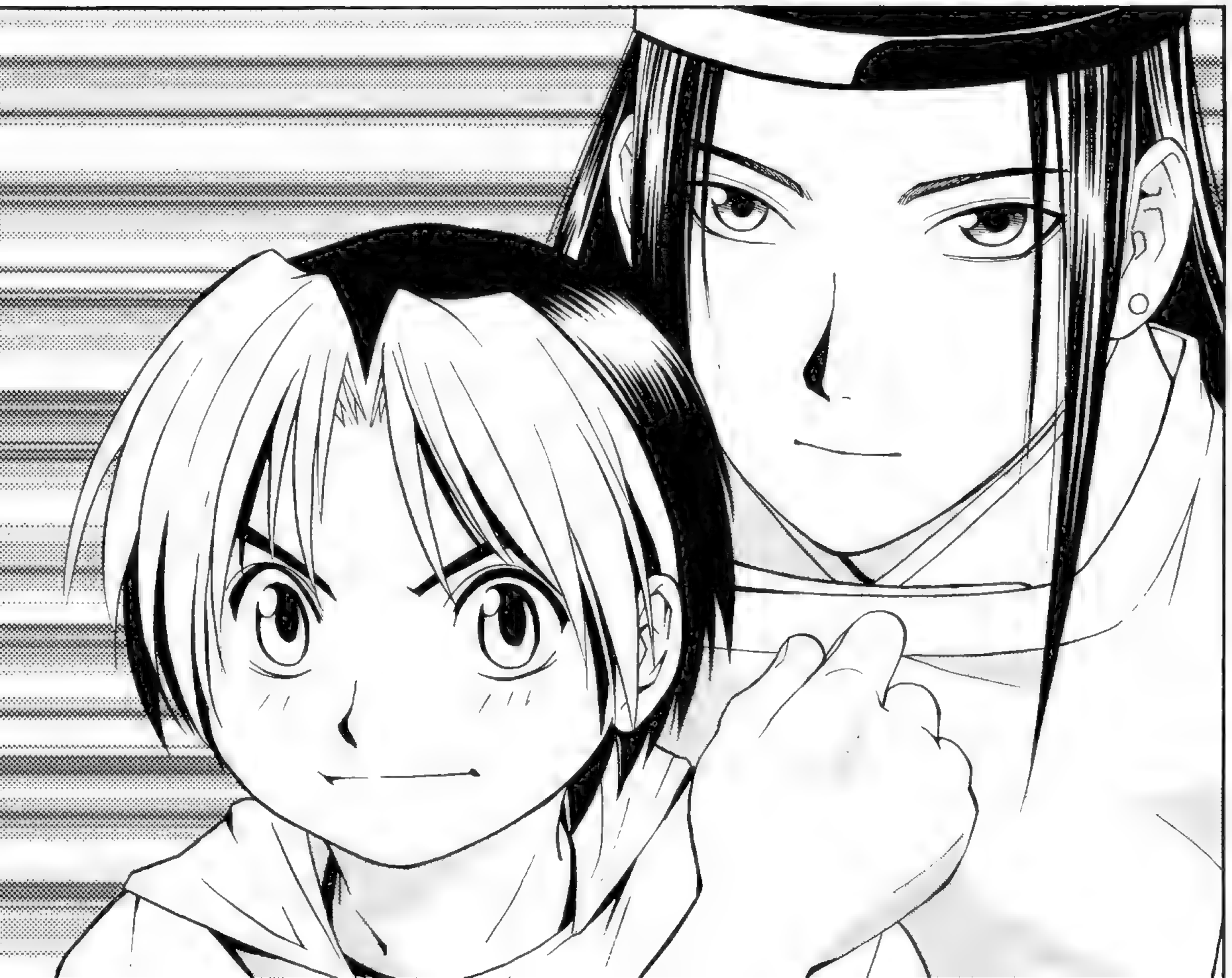
THE TOURNAMENT IS BASED ON THE WORLD AMATEUR GO CHAMPIONSHIP HELD EVERY YEAR IN JUNE. (THE WORLD AMATEUR TOURNAMENT THAT TAKES PLACE IN *HIKARU NO GO* WAS HELD IN AUGUST.)

JAPAN'S No. 1 AMATEUR (WHO IS ON PAR WITH THE PROS) BATTLES IT OUT THROUGH THE PRELIMINARIES TO PLAY HEATED GAMES AGAINST THE BEST AMATEURS OF MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
ONE EUROPEAN PLAYER WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS TOURNAMENT SPENT SOME TIME AS AN INSEI IN JAPAN.





Game 33 "Akira"



KLAK

<I RESIGN...>

OH...

<IS THIS ABOUT "SAI"?>

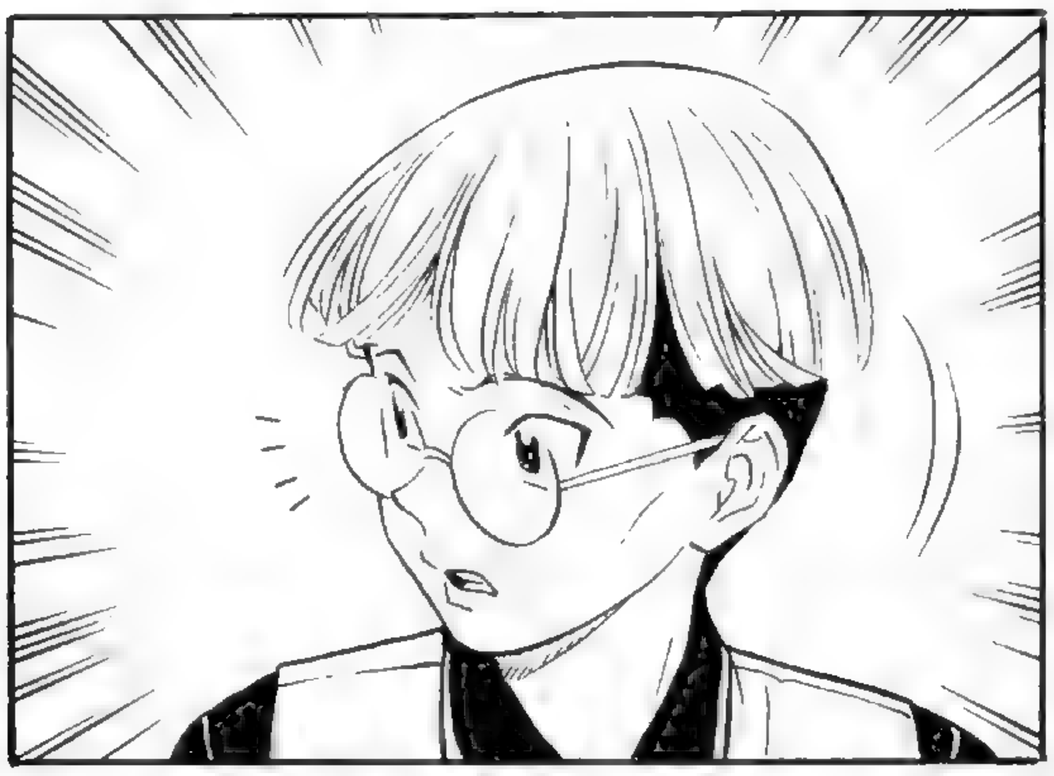
<UM... BY ANY CHANCE, DO YOU PLAY GO ON THE INTERNET?>

SHF

SHF


〈COULD IT BE... ARE YOU SAI?!〉








〈I AM NOT SAI.〉
〈WHO IS THIS "SAI" ANYWAY?〉


〈WELL, YOU SEE... THIS MORNING ANOTHER PLAYER ASKED ME IF I WAS SAI...〉
〈AND...〉


〈HIS IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN AND HE WON'T TALK TO ANYBODY.〉

...

SHFF

SHFF

<I'VE NEVER PLAYED HIM MYSELF, BUT I'VE OBSERVED HIS GAMES. I SEE SAI A LOT ONLINE.>

<IT WAS ABOUT A MONTH AGO THAT I PLAYED HIM. A PERSON OF MY LEVEL COULD DO NOTHING AGAINST HIM.>

<I PLAYED AGAINST SAI TEN DAYS AGO.>

SAI?!

<I PLAYED AGAINST SAI TOO.>

SKOOT

<QUIET PLEASE! PEOPLE ARE STILL PLAYING THEIR GAMES!>

I'D LIKE TO —

UMM... EXCUSE ME...

MUTTER MUTTER

〈WHO IS HE? HE'S NO ORDINARY PLAYER.〉

UMM...

?

〈WHAT?〉

.....

.....

〈EVERYONE, PLEASE!〉

MUTTER MUTTER

TP

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

OGATA, YOU KNOW SHIMANO?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

OGATA-SAN...

OGATA SENSEI.

SKOOT

HE USED TO COME TO THE MEIJIN'S STUDY GROUP QUITE OFTEN.

IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S A REALLY STRONG PLAYER ONLINE...

BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THIS COM-MOTION ABOUT?

I CAME TO SHOW MY SUPPORT. AKIRA SHOULD ALSO BE HERE SOON.

READ THIS WAY

<I'M LEE RINSHIN OF CHINA. I PLAYED THIS PERSON AND HAD TO RESIGN FROM THAT GAME.>

<...THE PLAYER NAMED SAI ON THE NET — HE'S REALLY GOOD.>

<"REALLY STRONG PLAYER"?>

<PERHAPS HE'S A PRO?>

<WAYA MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT THIS TOO...>

<I'M KIM FROM KOREA. I DON'T KNOW OF SAI MYSELF, BUT...>

<PROBABLY NOT. SAI IS ONLINE VERY FREQUENTLY AND DOESN'T PICK AND CHOOSE HIS OPPONENTS. WOULD A PRO HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME?>

SKOOT

<...THE DAY BEFORE I CAME TO JAPAN, I GOT A CALL FROM A FRIEND OF MINE.>

<SAI?>

<IS THAT HIS ONLINE USERNAME?>

<KOREAN PRO YU 7-DAN CALLED ME AND SAID, "I JUST PLAYED SAI ONLINE. WHEN YOU GO TO JAPAN, I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS.">

<BUT LIKE WE JUST SAID, SAI'S NOT A PRO...>

<IF HE'S *NOT* A PRO...>

<HE SAID SAI IS MOST CERTAINLY JAPAN'S TOP PLAYER.>

<THEN WHOM ARE YOU SAYING YU 7-DAN LOST TO?>

YOU'VE PLAYED AGAINST HIM? WHAT'S HE LIKE?

ONE OF MORI-SHITA 9-DAN'S STU-DENTS.

WHO IS THIS?

SO WE'VE HEARD.

SAI'S NOT A PRO.

A-ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SAI?

AND HIS GAME... HIS MOVES WERE... IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.

I PLAYED AGAINST HIM A MONTH AGO...

UMM...

WHAT'S HE LIKE...?

I GO OVER SHUSAKU'S GAMES A LOT, YOU SEE...

AT THE TIME I THOUGHT HE REMINDED ME OF SHUSAKU.

SAI'S STRENGTH SEEMED TO BE ON PAR WITH SHUSAKU.

HON'INBO SHUSAKU?

.....

...REMINDED HIM OF HON'INBO...

READ THIS WAY

HE'S ONLINE SO MUCH...

REALLY... I'VE SEEN A LOT OF HIS GAMES.

AND SINCE THEN, I'VE OBSERVED SAI'S GAMES A NUMBER OF TIMES.

AND...?

HEH HEH...

THE WAY HE'S PLAYING THE GAME IS DIFFERENT. IT'S AS IF SHUSAKU HAS LEARNED MODERN JOSEKI...

HE'S GETTING STRONGER...

SHUSAKU PLAYING MODERN JOSEKI?

...INSIDE THIS BOX—

THIS IS GREAT, SAI. EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE YOU...

...OR A MONSTER?

IS HE A GOD...

FUJIWARA-NO-SAI EXISTS...

YOU REALLY DO EXIST...

HON'INBO SHUSAKU...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

MURMUR

MURMUR

マチュア囲碁カップ

第1回戦

MUTTER

SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING ODD IS GOING ON HERE.

AKIRA...

MUTTER

第1回戦

OH, IT'S YOU...

Hmph

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. GO AWAY!

WHY DO YOU ASK?

I'VE PLAYED ONLINE WITH A PRO FROM THE KANSAI AREA.

HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED GO ON THE INTER-NET?

YOU HAVE A COM-PUTER DON'T YOU, AKIRA?

HE APPEARS TO BE AN AMATEUR, BUT HE'S BEATEN A PRO FROM KOREA.

APPARENTLY THERE'S A REALLY STRONG PLAYER ON THE INTERNET.

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...

GRRR

GRRR

I THINK I'VE HEARD OF HIM.

A REALLY STRONG PLAYER ON THE INTERNET?

HIS NAME IS "SAI."

MAYBE SOME JAPANESE PROS HAVE LOST TO HIM TOO...

WHAT IS IT?

SENSEI, I HAVE A THEORY...

I THINK HE'S A KID.

A KID?

SAI...

SINCE THE END OF JULY, HE'S BEEN ONLINE AND PLAYING SO MUCH — THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER BREAK.

AND HE HAD THE NERVE TO WRITE ME AND SAY "I'M PRETTY STRONG, AREN'T I?" ISN'T THAT SOMETHING A KID WOULD SAY?

<WHY DOES HE THINK SO?>

A KID?!

<NO WAY!>

READ THIS WAY









DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO IT MAY BE, AKIRA?

I DO NOT, OGATA-SAN.

IF IT'S *HIM* YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT, WE WERE OVER-ESTIMATING HIM.

AKIRA...

TMP

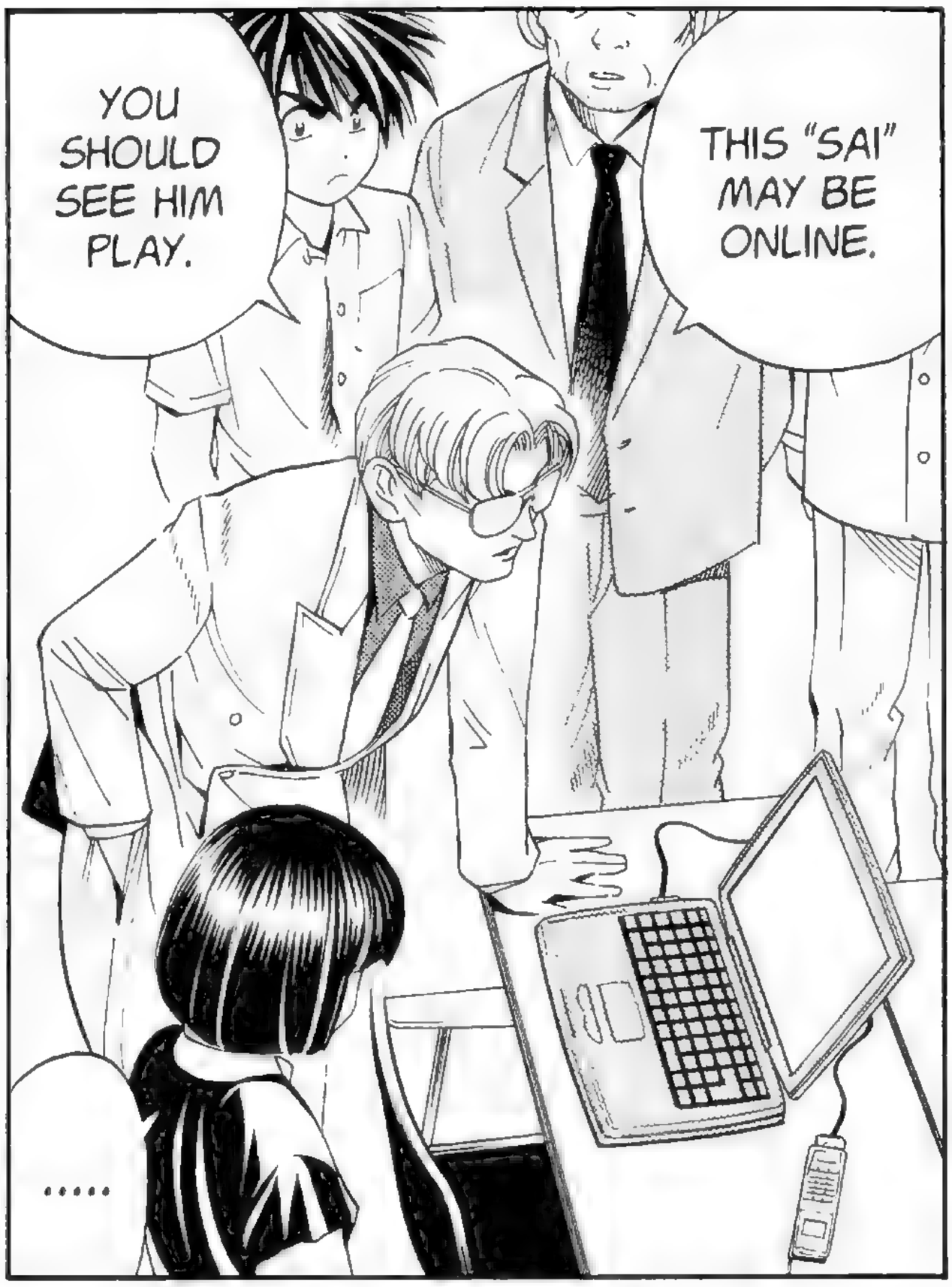
.....

I'VE GOT A LAPTOP HERE THAT CAN GO ONLINE.

ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD PLAY HIM?

READ THIS WAY









KLIK
KLIK

HEH
HEH!

But there are indeed some very strong players inside this box.

I GUESS SO.

Hikaru, the person I just played against was not very strong.

YOU WON AGAIN TODAY! IT FEELS GREAT 'CAUSE YOU NEVER LOSE!

IT'S SOMEONE NAMED AKIRA.

HEY...

I'LL REFUSE, AND GO BACK TO THE PREVI-OUS SCREEN.

KLIK

I GET SO MANY GAME RE-QUESTS.

OOPS, THE SCREEN...

FWP

I WONDER IF IT'S AKIRA TOYA. HEH HEH...

PIP

akira
m.s.g.

THERE IT IS — THERE'S AKIRA.

I'M GOING TO REFUSE 'EM ALL!

ANOTHER GAME REQUEST!

Taro

Country

PIP

NO MATTER HOW MANY I REFUSE THEY KEEP COMING.

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

GRRR

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DARN! ANOTHER ONE!

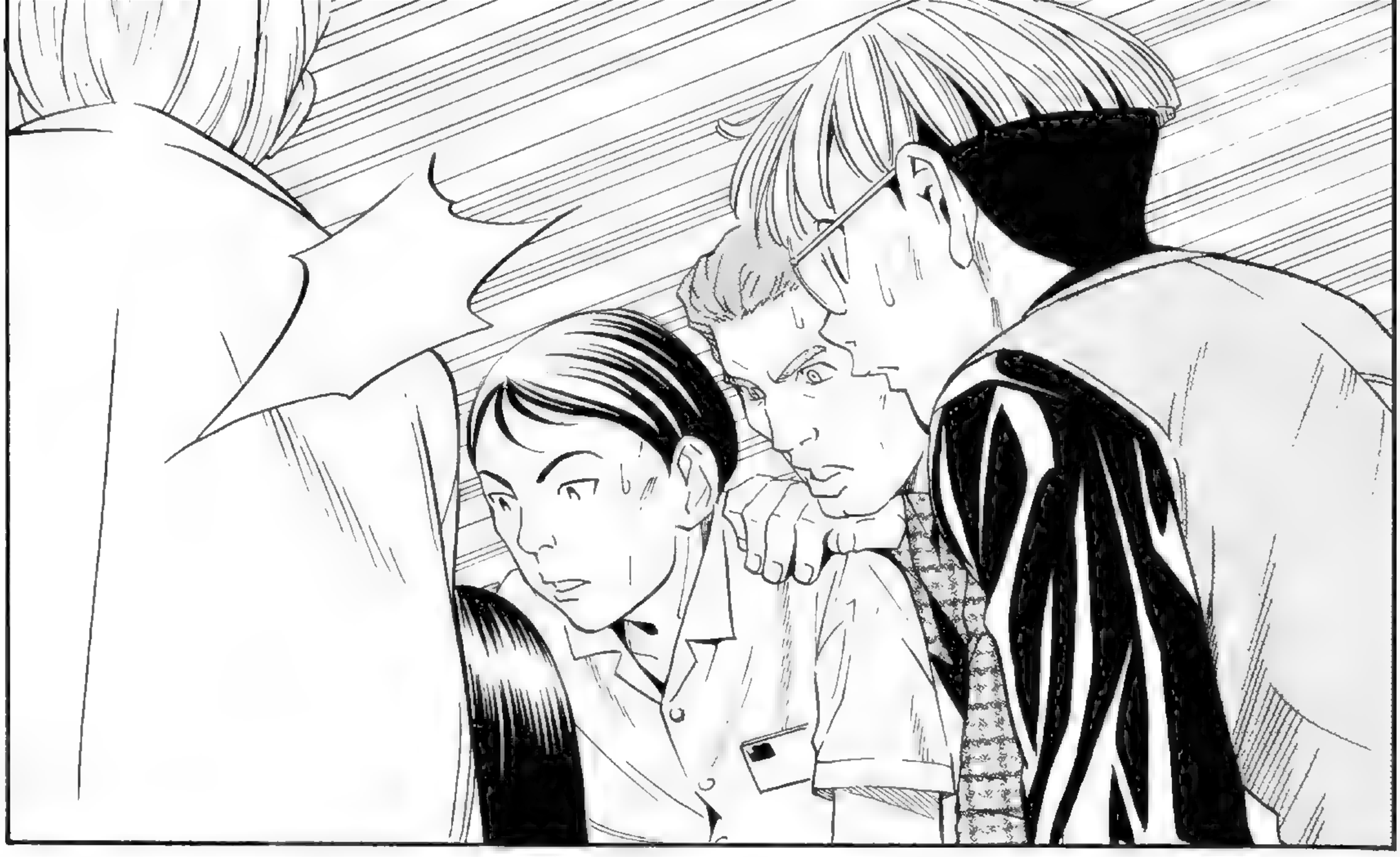
IT FINALLY STOPPED.

PHEW...

KLIK

KLIK

GASP!




〈HE'S ASKING ME FOR A GAME!〉
〈IT'S SAI...〉

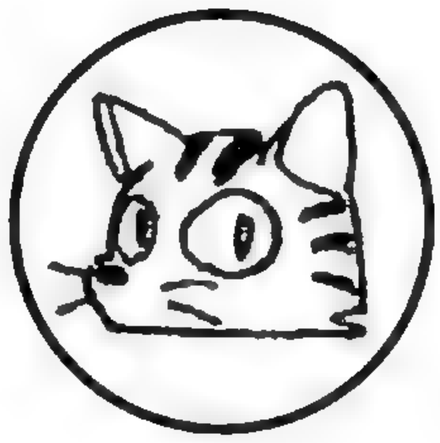
A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

TECHNICAL GO TERMS IN ENGLISH



THE BIRTHPLACE OF GO WAS IN CHINA A LONG TIME AGO. BUT IT SPREAD TO THE WORLD FROM JAPAN.

THAT'S WHY A LOT OF GO TERMS IN ENGLISH ARE LEFT IN JAPANESE. FOR EXAMPLE, *SENTE*, *GOTE*, *NIGIRI*, AND *TENUKI* ARE ALL LEFT IN JAPANESE.



Game 34 "A Memorable Game"

Akira?

Is Akira Toya in this box, too?

Hikaru, you just said Akira was in here, didn't you?

Akira?

Akira Toya?!

I ONLY SAID THAT HE MIGHT BE...

It's not Akira?

OKAY, HE ACCEPTED OUR GAME REQUEST!

...THERE'S LOTS OF PEOPLE NAMED, "AKIRA."

WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU IS...

HE'S BEEN WANTING TO PLAY AGAINST ME, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER HE KNOWS THAT IT'S ME OR NOT.

IT'D BE GREAT IF THIS REALLY WERE AKIRA TOYA.

I'D LIKE IT IF YOU COULD PLAY AGAINST AKIRA AGAIN...

We'll see if it's really Akira or not.

HUH?

Shall we find out for sure, Hikaru?

Hikaru, play Black.

I think there's a way we can tell.

BLACK?

PLP

KLIK

KLIK

Play 4-17 for the opening move.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

WHAT'S GOING ON? IS HE THINK-ING?

LET'S SEE, WHITE...

3-15.

WHITE PLAYED AT 17-4.

PLP

KLIK

KLIK

17-16.

WHITE PLAYED THE UPPER LEFT STAR-POINT.

KLIK

KLIK

PLP

Time Left
Think Time

Black

Prisoners
Time Left
Think Time

.....

So far we've played the exact same moves as the last time.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

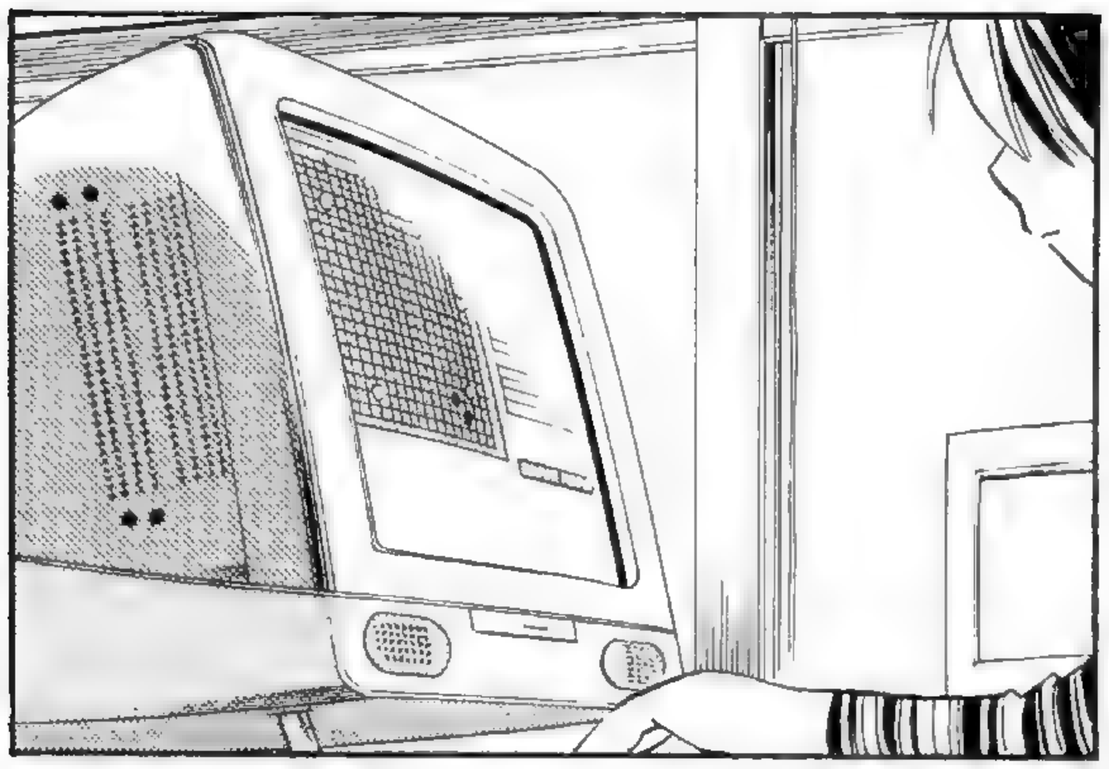
HE APPROACHED THE LOWER RIGHT...

OH!

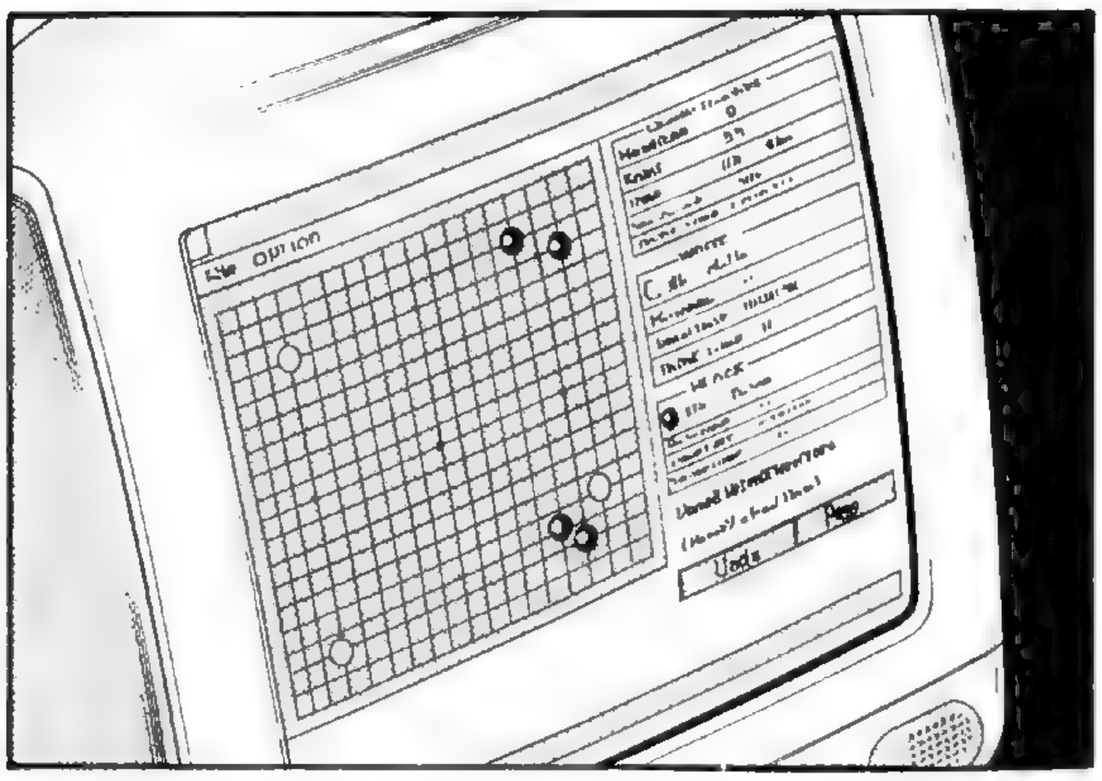
THE LAST TIME...?

The same as my second game against Akira — when I completely overwhelmed him.

Yes...






Ctrl Option
Undo


HE'S NOT MAKING HIS NEXT MOVE.
.....


Play the diagonal at 16-15.
The same moves from that game...
KLK
KLK

READ THIS WAY

...it is indeed Akira Toya.

He is not playing because...

And that's why he hasn't made a move...

He is recalling that game...

THAT MEANS HE KNOWS IT'S ME!!

Uh-oh!

THE INTERNET EXPERIENCE

USE IMACS TO DO EMAIL AND MORE!

AKIRA...

WAIT A MINUTE...

IT
CAN'T BE...

IT
CAN'T BE...

READ THIS WAY

IT CAN'T BE...

HE PLAYED WHAT IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS SHUSAKU'S KOSUMI...

IT CAN'T BE...

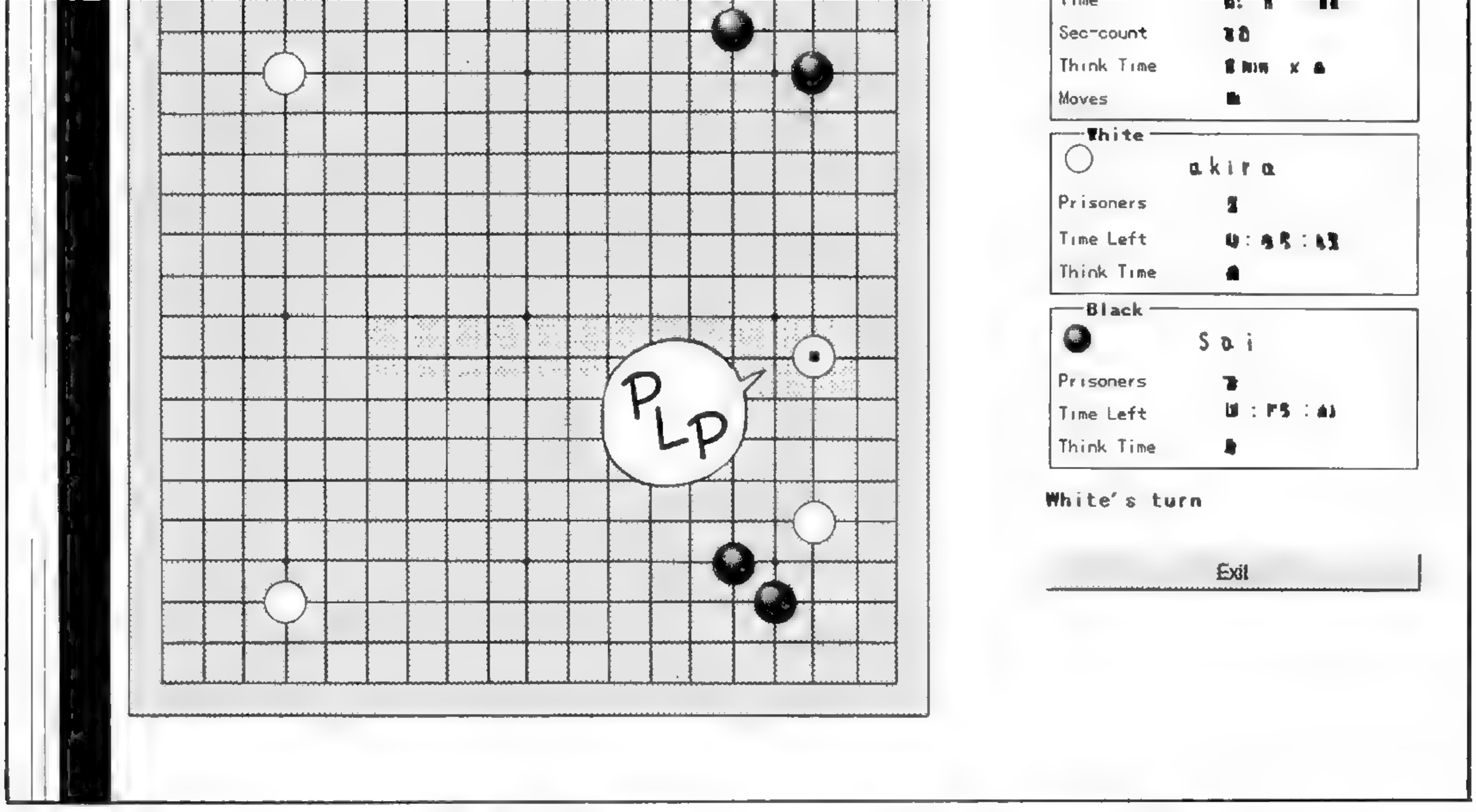
AKIRA?

KLIK

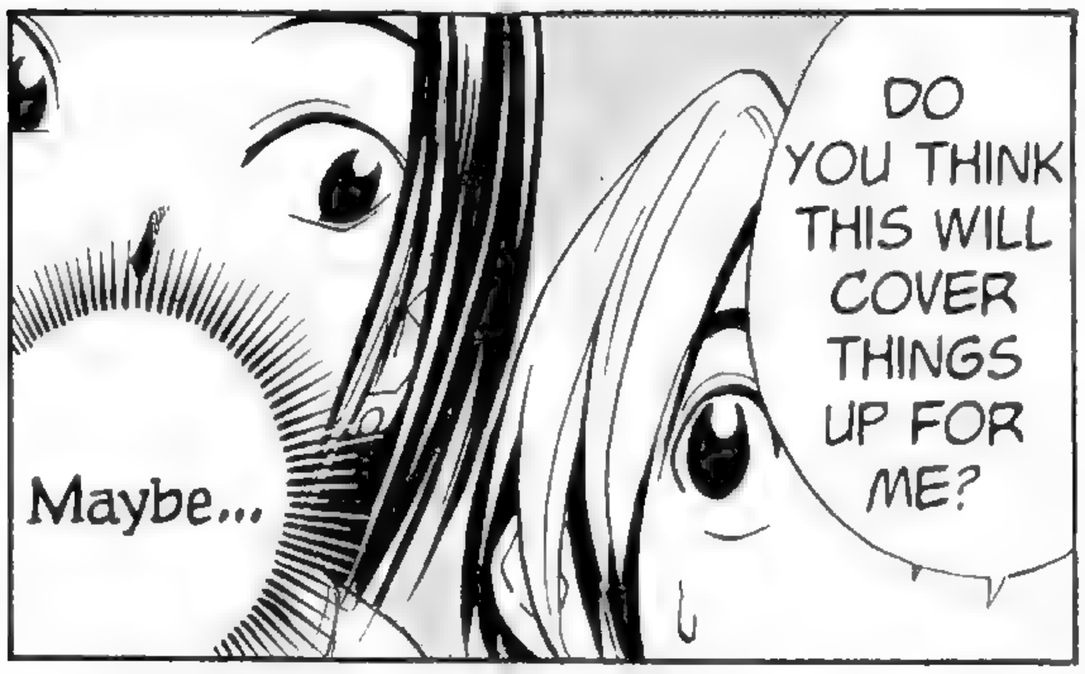
KLIK

MURMER

MURMER


Sec-count
Think Time
Moves
White
akira
Prisoners
Time Left
Think Time
Black
Sai
Prisoners
Time Left
Think Time
White's turn
Exit


THIS ISN'T GOOD, SAI! THINGS'LL GET COMPLICATED IF IT GETS OUT THAT I'M PLAYING THESE GAMES!
Look! He played the same move from the last game!


Maybe...
DO YOU THINK THIS WILL COVER THINGS UP FOR ME?


I WONDER IF IT REALLY IS AKIRA?


Okay, play a two-point high approach at 14-4.
PLAY A DIF-FERENT MOVE FROM THE LAST GAME!
KLK
KLK

READ THIS WAY

.....

HMPH!

IS HE ALREADY TAKING A LONG TIME TO THINK?

HE'S NOT MAKING A MOVE.

HE'S GIVING UP?!

k Time 0

ent has resigned.

end.

Return to List

WHAT?!

IF I CONTINUE TO PLAY THIS GAME, IT WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THIS TOURNAMENT.

I'LL ASK HIM FOR A REMATCH AT ANOTHER TIME.

MUTTER

YOU RESIGNED?

GASP!

AKIRA!

KLK

KLK

.....

.....


HE'S ASKING FOR A REMATCH ON A DIFFERENT DAY...
SORRY, I'M GOING ON A TRIP WITH A FRIEND...
HEY, UH... WILL YOU BE HERE TOMORROW?
THAT'S GREAT!
YOU'LL BE BACK HERE NEXT SUNDAY?
YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO DO THIS FOR YOURSELF!
CAN YOU TELL THIS GUY I'LL PLAY HIM NEXT SUNDAY AT 10 A.M.?

I THOUGHT I MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT SAI HERE IN JAPAN...

MUTTER

MUTTER

KLK KLK

.....

NEXT SUNDAY?

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

WE'LL ALL HAVE GONE HOME BY THEN.

AKIRA...

SORRY ABOUT THIS...

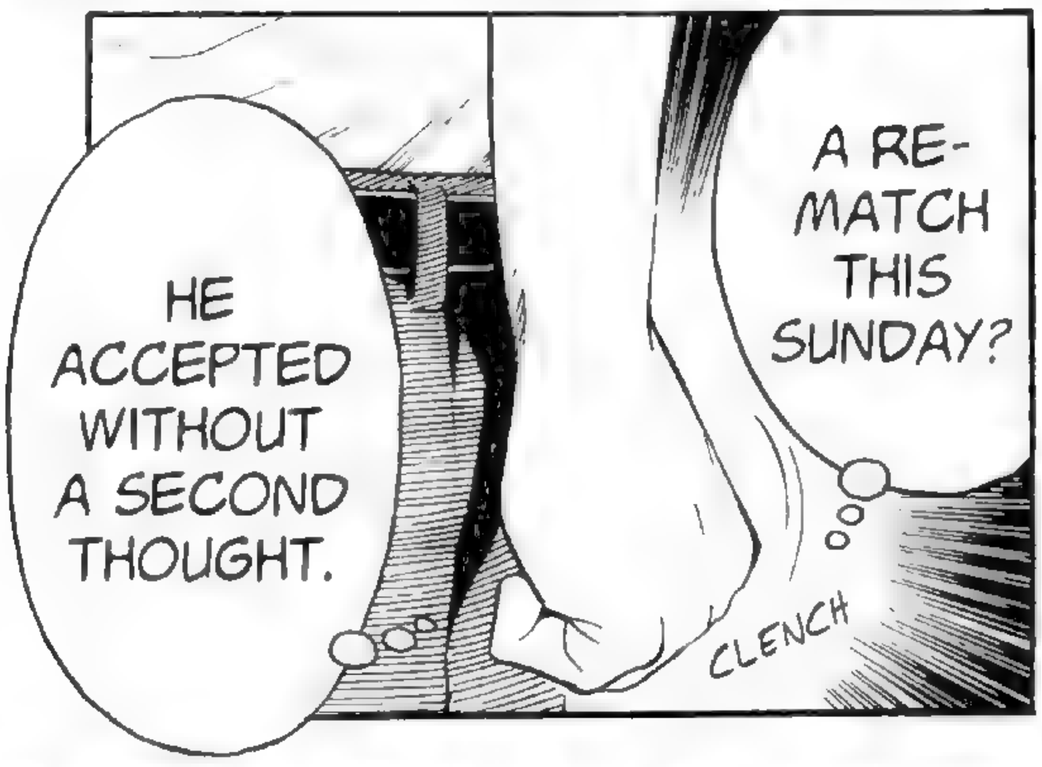
I THINK I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF FOR TODAY...

SKOOT

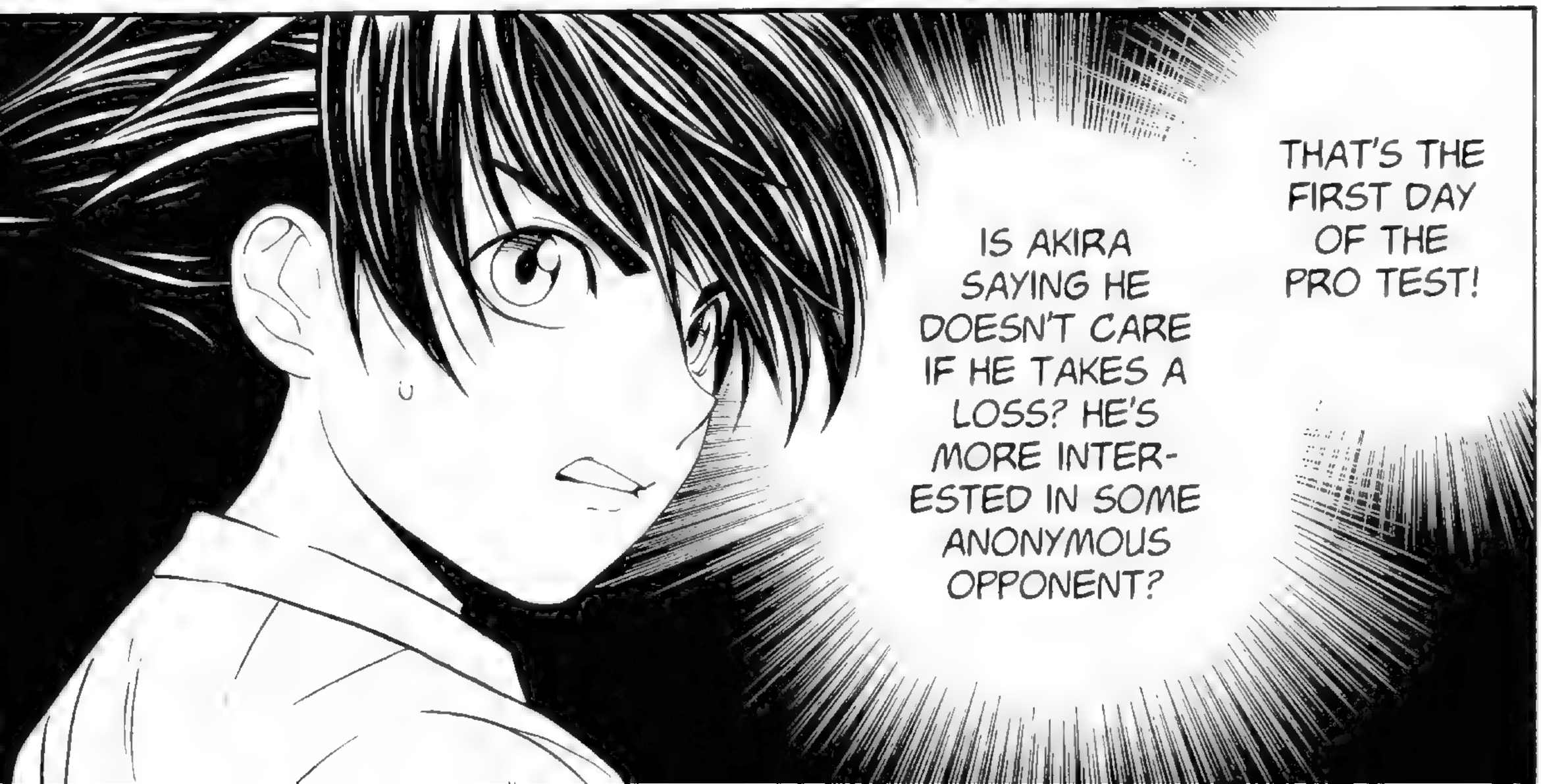
READ THIS WAY











ALL THE MORNING GAMES HAVE NOW ENDED. WE'VE PREPARED YOUR LUNCHES FOR YOU IN THE OTHER ROOM.

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME, SO PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY OVER THERE.

第20回国際アマチュア囲碁カップ

SO I GUESS NOBODY KNOWS WHO SAI REALLY IS.

MURMER

MURMER

MURMER

CONTACT ME IF YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT SAI!

ME, TOO!

OKAY, OKAY! I WILL!

READ THIS WAY

JAPAN GO ASSOCIATION STUDY CENTER

JAPAN GO ASSOCIATION STUDY CENTER

FSHHHH

FSHHH

THE FIRST DAY OF THE PRO GO TEST...

NOPE...

NO SIGN OF AKIRA TOYA, HUH?

AKIRA TOYA JUST RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY...

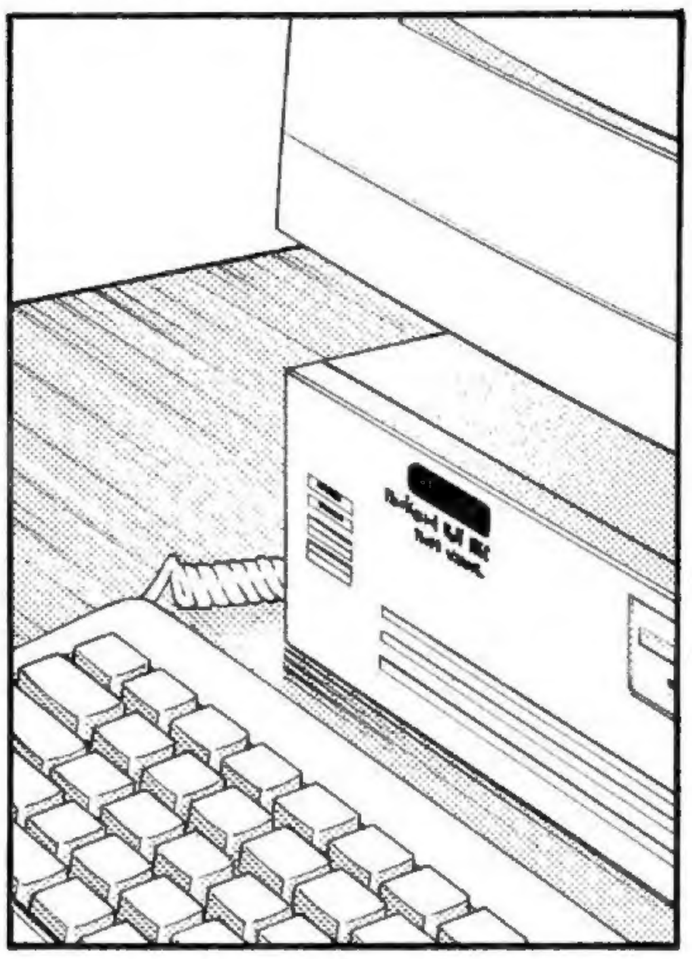
GUESS HE THINKS IT'S NO BIG DEAL IF HE LOSES HIS FIRST MATCH.

HE'S NOT HERE...

PLEASE BEGIN YOUR GAMES.

PHEW

READ THIS WAY









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